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PATRONS OF THE PRESS:

Subscription Book Purchases
in North Carolina, 1733-1850

By WILLIAM S. POWELL

STATE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
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BY WILLIAM S. POWELL *

In 1939 F. E. Compton delivered the fourth of the R. R. Bowker Memorial Lectures at the New York Public Library. By way of introduction he noted that he had been unable to find a definition of subscription books that could not be challenged. "But perhaps we can agree," he said, "that subscription books are, in the main, those for which a definite market is created, before or after publication, by soliciting individual orders."

The history of subscription publication is an ancient and honorable one. When England's earliest printer, William Caxton, undertook to translate and print *The Golden Legend* in 1483, he relied on a single subscription for the necessary funds. Because of the expense and the enormous amount of work involved, he tells us that he was "half desperate" until the Earl of Arundel came to his assistance. The Earl agreed to purchase "a reasonable quantity" of Caxton's book and to grant him a yearly fee for the remainder of his life.

The single patron of a publication was soon accepted as a logical means of financing a publication. Numerous flowery dedications give us some idea concerning the gratitude of authors for the assistance of their patrons. Before many years had passed groups of men were assisting in the publication of worthy works. For example, in 1552 eight Lords of the Privy Council pooled their resources to see John Foxe's *Tables of Grammar* through the press.¹

From here it was only a logical next step to obtain lengthy lists of subscribers to assure the financial success of a book. The first surviving book in which a printed list of subscribers is found, appeared in 1617

* Mr. Powell is Librarian of the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

¹ F. E. Compton, *Subscription Books* (New York: The New York Public Library, 1939), 5, hereinafter cited as Compton, *Subscription Books*; Sarah L. H. Clapp, "The Beginnings of Subscription Publication in the Seventeenth Century," *Modern Philology*, XXIX (November, 1931), 205-206.

when John Minsheu, a Cambridge scholar, published a polyglot dictionary containing English words with their equivalents in other languages. The subscription list, consisting of 166 names, apparently was made up of the author's friends residing in Cambridge and Oxford.²

The first book published in what is now the United States was *The Whole Book of Psalms, Faithfully Translated into English Metre*, printed at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1640, the first printing press in this country having been set up there just the year before. The press in the colonies was subject to many restrictions and its use spread slowly. The second and third colonies to have a press were Maryland and Pennsylvania, but forty-six years had elapsed since the Massachusetts printer had set to work. Virginia was seventh of the colonies to see the establishment of a press, but that was only after a century (lacking nine years) had passed since the Cambridge press began operation. South Carolina had a press the following year, 1731, and North Carolina's James Davis opened shop in 1749. Between that date and 1785 seven other colonies or States acquired their first press.³

The story of printing by subscription in this country has been touched on only incidentally by historians, bibliographers, and librarians. No bibliography of subscription books has been compiled, and until more work has been done it will be almost impossible to point out the landmarks.

In 1683 Cotton Mather wrote in his diary: "There is an old Hawker, who will fill this country with devout and useful Books, if I will direct him." Some years later he recorded: "I am informed, that the Minds and Manners of many People about the Country are much corrupted by foolish Songs and Ballads, which the Hawkers and Pedlars carry into all parts of the Countrey." When the Massachusetts Assembly passed a law in 1713 restricting the peddlers, Mather commented that he "must . . . assist the Booksellers in addressing the Assembly, that their late Act against Pedlers, may not hinder their Hawkers from carrying Books of Piety about the Countrey."⁴ But we do not know that they sought orders for books in advance of publication.

² Compton, *Subscription Books*, 15.

³ Lawrence C. Wroth, "Book Production and Distribution from the Beginning to the American Revolution," Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt (ed.), *The Book in America* (New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1951), 7-59, hereinafter cited as Wroth, "Book Production and Distribution."

⁴ *Diary of Cotton Mather* (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 2 volumes, 1921-1922), I, 65; II, 242, 283; Downing Palmer O'Harra, "Book Publishing in the United States to 1901," *The Publishers' Weekly*, CXV (March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 20, May 11, 18, June 8, 1929), 2,252.

Among the earliest American books known to have been sold by subscription were Samuel Willard's *Compleat Body of Divinity* (Boston, 1726), *A Collection of All the Acts of Assembly* (Williamsburg, 1733), and Thomas Prince's *Chronological History of New England* (Boston, 1736).⁵ The Williamsburg imprint is the first to which persons outside the immediate area of the printer subscribed; the names of four North Carolinians appear among the uncompleted list of 250 subscribers.

Subscribers to books undoubtedly considered themselves patrons of the press and were fully aware of the fact that only through their common support could the books be issued. Public notices concerning the proposed publication of a title frequently and candidly pointed out that the manuscript would go to press only when a certain number of persons (sometimes as few as 200) had subscribed. In some instances the announcement stated simply that work would get underway as soon as the number of subscribers justified it financially.

Authors were certainly aware of their indebtedness to subscribers. In 1775 Hugh Knox begged leave "to return thanks to all his Subscribers, for the genteel encouragement they have given him. . . . He heartily wishes the work was more worthy of their acceptance and hopes, that his distance from the press will apologize for any little errors or inaccuracies which may appear in the work."⁶ Robert Mayo, more than forty years later, was equally cordial in expressing "gratitude to the generous Public, for the ample patronage they have bestowed."⁷ "Generous Subscription" is a term which occurs again and again by way of preface to the lists of names. An 1832 attempt to round up subscribers, however, found them less than generous. The author of *A Concise History of the Kehukee Baptist Association* in this State tells us that after two annual efforts to induce enough subscribers to sign up for copies "to justify the undertaking," the Association resorted to taking up a collection at a yearly meeting. Passing the plate proved to be the solution to the problem, and the book appeared the next year.⁸

⁵ Wroth, "Book Production and Distribution," 52; Samuel G. Drake, "Books Published by Subscription," *The American Historical Record*, I (January, February, March, April, August, 1872), *passim*, is an interesting study of subscription books in this country and is the only one to my knowledge which makes any use of the names of the subscribers in discussing the books.

⁶ Hugh Knox, *The Moral and Religious Miscellany* (New York: Hodge and Shober, 1775), 360.

⁷ Robert Mayo, *A New System of Mythology* (Philadelphia [Pennsylvania]: Printed for Geo. Mayo & Co., 3 volumes, 1816), II, 345.

⁸ Joseph Biggs, *A Concise History of the Kehukee Baptist Association* (Tarboro: Printed and Published by George Howard, 1834), vii-viii, hereinafter cited as Biggs, *History of Kehukee Baptist Association*.

The Rev. Henry Pattillo, author of a book of sermons published in 1788 while he was living in North Carolina, made an interesting observation on the literary production of the country at that time. "Book-writing is but in its infancy in these states. Let no one *despise the day* of our small things," he wrote. "*Americans* will naturally relish the fruits of their own soil, though they smell of the congenial forest, and fall short of the more elaborate productions of foreign climes. And so affectinglly scarce are good books, among the common people of these southern states, since the late war, that this little piece may compose the whole library in some houses its author has called at."⁹

Lists of subscribers printed in these books, if more generally known, would undoubtedly prove to be a source of much interesting information on a great many North Carolinians. Most lists of subscribers give full names and titles—Brigadier General, Major, Captain, the Reverend, Doctor, Esquire, or plain Mister which suggests some importance when assigned to some men and not to others. Often occupations or offices are indicated—governor, senator, member of congress, judge, attorney, doctor, secretary of state, justice of the peace, merchant, schoolmaster, collector of customs, sheriff, student. Degrees sometimes appear: M.A., M.D., LL.D., D.D. Place of residence frequently is given, that is, town and county, and sometimes even the name or location of a plantation. Once in a while, especially in religious books, subscribers are identified by the parish or congregation to which they belonged.¹⁰ In some instances, however, names are grouped only by State with no further evidence of residence, and a few lists of subscribers consist only of names with absolutely no identification.

Subscribers apparently had a good idea what they were to get for their money. The forms on which their names were entered generally contained detailed statements of the proposed contents of the book, its size, number of pages, kind of binding, a note on illustrations, and frequently a proposed date of publication or some other indication as to when the volume might be expected. It appears that a period of approximately two years generally elapsed between the announcement of the publication of a book and its actual delivery to the subscriber.¹¹

⁹ Henry Pattillo, *Sermons, &c.* (Wilmington [Delaware]: Printed by James Adams, 1788), vii-viii.

¹⁰ For instance, St. Luke's Parish [Salisbury] in Henry Kollock, *Sermons on Various Subjects* (Savannah [Georgia]: Published by S. C. and L. Schenck, 1822); Center Church [Iredell County] and Thyatira Church [Rowan County] in Alexander MacWhorter, *A Series of Sermons, Upon the Most Important Principles of Our Holy Religion* (Newark [New Jersey]: Printed by John Wallis, 1803).

¹¹ E. Millicent Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* (Washington: The Library of Congress, 5 volumes, 1952-1959), I, 241-243, 462-465, hereinafter cited as Sowerby, *Catalogue of Library of Jefferson*; Biggs, *History of the Kehukee Baptist Association*, vii-viii.

The price, of course, was also set forth. In only one instance has evidence been found that a partial payment in advance was required,¹² but in another, James Davis expected a ten shilling deposit from persons unknown to him or who had not previously subscribed for one of his books.¹³

Frequently subscribers received a small advantage over nonsubscribers who might purchase a copy of a book later. Out of 60 subscribers who purchased more than one copy of Burkitt and Read's *Concise History of the Kehukee Baptist Association* in 1803, 34 bought 12 or 24 copies, so there may have been a special price for a dozen copies. In two cases persons agreeing to take six copies of a title were entitled to a seventh free of charge.¹⁴ In others they were able to buy at a saving—twenty-five to fifty cents per copy, generally. This, however, must not have been much of an inducement to buy, for books were expensive. Marshall's *The Life of George Washington*, the most popular subscription book sold in North Carolina, cost \$15.00 for the set; Wilson's *American Ornithology* cost \$96.00; and Scott's edition of the Bible sold for around \$25.00, depending on the binding.¹⁵

Subscription books purchased by North Carolinians or advertised for sale within the State may be grouped into three general categories: *first*, those known to have been sold by subscription, but which carry no lists of subscribers; *second*, those which do list the subscribers; and *third*, titles proposed for publication by subscription, but of which no copies are known today and, therefore, presumed never actually to have been published.

The first category is probably the most elusive since there is generally no internal evidence to indicate that the publication history is different from an ordinary book. We know about these cases only through external sources, usually newspaper advertisements seeking subscribers. A sermon by the Rev. Samuel Eusebius McCorkle of Rowan County on the *Comparative Happiness and Duty of the United States of America*, preached in 1795 on "the Day of General Thanksgiving and Prayer, appointed by the President of the United States," is an example. It was printed by Abraham Hodge in Halifax, "by the Request of the Hearers," we are told. Advertisements seeking subscribers appeared in both Halifax and New Bern newspapers.¹⁶

¹² *North-Carolina Gazette* (New Bern), July 4, 1777, hereinafter cited as *North-Carolina Gazette*.

¹³ *North-Carolina Gazette*, September 24, 1791.

¹⁴ *North-Carolina Gazette*, June 20, 1795; *North-Carolina Minerva*, and *Fayetteville Advertiser*, February 10, 1798.

¹⁵ Sowerby, *Catalogue of Library of Jefferson*, I, 241-243, 463-465; II, 95-96.

¹⁶ *North-Carolina Journal* (Halifax), August 3, 1795; *North-Carolina Gazette*, June 20, 1795.

In New Bern on July 16, 1791, *The North-Carolina Gazette* advertised that "Subscriptions to Mr. Ebenezer Hazard's *Collection of State Papers* to be printed in Philadelphia, are received at this office." Neither Volume I printed in 1792 nor the second volume, which appeared two years later, has a list of subscribers, however.

In 1791 subscriptions were sought in North Carolina for a Masonic publication which promised information on the Grand Lodges of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The Masons of North Carolina, in this case, must have been reluctant to subscribe. The book was to be put to press "so soon as a sufficient number of subscribers to defray the expence are procured." When the book finally appeared the information on North Carolina was not included, although the promised material on the other States was there.¹⁷ A separate volume dealing wholly with North Carolina appeared in 1805, though it is not known whether subscribers were sought for it.¹⁸

A printed subscription form for Hugh Williamson's *The History of North Carolina* in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina is apparently unique. Added in manuscript is the name of only one subscriber, that of John Haywood of Wake County who ordered "two Setts bound" for \$5.00. Williamson's plans for his history were obviously changed after the appearance of this subscription form as the two published volumes which exist today contain only the material he had projected for "Book II" of the first volume. Much of the material outlined for "Book I" appeared in a separate publication in 1811 dealing with climate. The second volume, as announced on the subscription form, never appeared but would have made a most valuable third volume to Williamson's history.

Cornelia Phillips Spencer once reported finding "a little dingy blank book" which had been the property of the Rev. Colin McIver in 1819. In it she found written proposals for publishing by subscription a volume of sermons "from the manuscript of ministers of approved reputation residing in the Southern States." Some 780 subscribers were listed in the little book, she noted, and since the Rev. Mr. McIver lived in the vicinity she added that "Fayetteville people of course lead off." According to Mrs. Spencer

"Robert Jaffray, 2 copies," is the first name on the list followed by many familiar to many since. Robt. Strange, Jno. D. Eccles, Jas. H. Hooper, W.

¹⁷ *North-Carolina Gazette*, July 16, 1791. The book was printed in Virginia. Charles Evans, *American Bibliography* (Chicago [Illinois]: Privately Printed for the Author, 14 volumes, 1903-1959), VIII, 198.

¹⁸ *The Ahiman Rezon and Masonic Ritual* (New Bern: John C. Sims and Edward G. Moss [1805]).

In a short time will be published,
The History of North Carolina,
 From its discovery to the end of the revolution war.
 IN TWO VOLUMES.
 With a correct Map of the State.
 BY HUGH WILLIAMSON.

C O N T E N T S.

VOL. I. BOOK I.

Of the general face of America and the changes it seems to have undergone.—The uniform difference between the climate of the old continent and that of the new in corresponding latitudes, and the cause of that difference.—The diversity of colour that is found among the human species in the old world, and the reasons why such diversity does not exist in America.—The animal productions of America compared with those of the old continent.—The change of climate that has been observed in North America.—The effects of cultivation in North Carolina on the climate and constitution of its inhabitants.—The diseases most prevalent in North Carolina, their causes and the means of preventing them.

BOOK II.

Of the attempts made by the subjects of France and Spain to form a settlement in Carolina.—The attempts under the auspices of Sir Walter Raleigh to form a settlement in Carolina.—The first permanent settlement and the establishment of civil government in the counties of Albemarle and Clarendon.—The administration of the governors Drummond, Yeomans, Eastchurch, Sothel, &c.—The palatine colony at New Bern.—The Indian wars.—The administration of the governors Eden, Burrington, Everard, Johnston, and Dobbs.—The insurrection under governor Tryon, and the abdication of governor Josiah Martin.

VOL. II.

A general history of the late war, and a more particular account of every action in which the regular troops or militia of North Carolina were engaged, together with an estimate of the forces and supplies raised from year to year in that state.

C O N D I T I O N S.

I. This work, printed on a new type and fine paper, carefully stitched in boards, will be delivered to subscribers at four dollars, one half the price to be paid at the time of subscribing. The left neatly bound in leather and lettered will come at four dollars and an half. Gentlemen who wish to have the books in that form, will signify the same by paying two dollars and an half at the time of subscribing.

II. No subscriptions will be received except in North Carolina.

III. A list of the subscribers will be published in the first volume, distinguishing the counties in which they severally live, and, for this purpose, a subscription paper is provided for the inhabitants of each county who may be disposed to patronize the work.

IV. The books, when finished, will be delivered at Edenton, Newbern, Wilmington, Fayetteville, and Halifax, for the subscribers in those several districts; and at Raleigh for subscribers in other parts of the state.

Subscribers in the County of *Wake*. *2* *10* *10* *10*

in the County of Wake *5*

The pre-publication plans for Williamson's *History of North Carolina*, as set forth on this subscription form, were considerably changed before the book actually appeared.

Hooper, Charles and Peter Mallett, John Dobbin, R. Donaldson, E. L. Winslow, Thos. N. Cameron, Jno. Millins, Jno. D. Toomer, Wm. Broadfoot, and a long list of 'Macs.' Turning the pages and moving up the country I find Duncan Cameron, Alex. Wilson, Jas. Mebane, Jo. Gales, Jno. Haywood, D. L. Swain, Chas. Manly, J. S. Taylor, Paul Barringer, Jo. Hawkins, Wm. McPheeters, N. Harding. Here is many a well-known Wilmington name, Jas. Ow[e]n, McRae, Anderson, Wright, Cowan, Dudley, Taylor. All the then faculty of the University—Caldwell, Mitchell, Olmsted, Andrews, Kollock. And some of the students also subscribed, whose names are rather better known now than then. A. Mitchel, Armand DeRosset, Hugh Y. Waddell, Jos. H. Saunders. . . . Moving out West for subscribers, Rev. Colin McIver seems to have done a good business at Sugar Creek, Rocky River, Charlotte and Salisbury. Here are plenty of Alexanders, Harris', Brevards, Pharrs, Caldwells, Grahams. . . . The young men who signed their names in this little book are old men, and the old men are gone and their names are a mere echo in their native State. Why should I sit here sentimentalizing over these faded autographs? Yet somehow I turn them over sadly and tenderly.¹⁹

Within six months after its publication in 1829, a four-volume set of Jefferson's correspondence was subscribed for by over 6,000 persons in the South alone.²⁰ Since this volume was sold by subscription after, rather than before publication, it contains no list of subscribers.

The second general category of subscription books—those which include a list of subscribers—is more easily identified. The earliest volume yet found to which North Carolinians subscribed was *A Collection of All the Acts of Assembly, Now in Force, in the Colony of Virginia*, printed in Williamsburg by William Parks in 1733— sixteen years before the establishment of the printing press in North Carolina. The four North Carolina subscribers were Dr. George Alleyn of Edenton, William Little, Esq., John Lovick, Esq., and Col. Edward Mosely. For the last three no other address was given than just "North Carolina."

The first subscription book to be printed in North Carolina was James Davis' *A Collection of all the Acts of Assembly, of the Province*

¹⁹ Louis R. Wilson (ed.), *Selected Papers of Cornelia Phillips Spencer* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1953), 449-450. The book to which Mrs. Spencer referred was *The Southern Preacher: A Collection of Sermons, From the Manuscripts of Several Eminent Ministers of the Gospel, Residing in the Southern States . . . Selected . . . by the Rev. Colin McIver* (Philadelphia [Pennsylvania]: Published by the Editor and Proprietor, 1824). The copy of this book in the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina Library bears an apparently contemporary signature of a former owner, Archd. Noble, who perhaps was also a subscriber. Efforts to locate Mrs. Spencer's "little dingy blank book" have been unsuccessful.

A manuscript list of 41 subscribers to Audubon's *Birds of America* in the Washington and Georgetown, D. C., area was contained in a letter by Audubon recently offered for sale by the Carnegie Book Shop, New York, N. Y., in its *Catalogue #225* [May, 1958], 3.

²⁰ Julian P. Boyd, "God's Altar Needs Not Our Pollishings," *New York History*, XXXIX (January, 1958), 12.

of North-Carolina, in Force and Use, Since the Revisal of the Laws in the Year 1751. Together with the Titles of All Such Laws as Are Obsolete, Had Their Effect, Expir'd or Repeal'd. With an Exact Table. It was printed at New Bern in 1764 and eighty-two "gentlemen" are recorded as having subscribed. The printer tells us, however, that several subscription papers had not been returned at the time the book was put to press and the names they were expected to contain could not be included.

The earliest women subscribers of whom any record has been found—Mrs. Mary Stevenson, Perquimans County; Miss Sarah Lippincott and Mrs. Sarah Lindsay, both of Hertford Town; and Mrs. Jean Blair and Mrs. Jermina Allen, of Edenton—bought copies of Hugh Knox's *The Moral and Religious Miscellany*, printed in New York in 1775. Mrs. Blair, in fact, took three copies. The next woman subscriber does not appear on the scene for more than a dozen years; Susannah Clark, for whom no address was given, ordered Henry Pattillo's *Sermons* published in 1788. Mrs. I. S. Blount of Tarboro was the only North Carolina subscriber for Judith Sargent Murray's *The Gleaner* printed in Boston in 1798. Not until after 1802 did the names of women begin to appear fairly frequently in lists of subscribers.

The first person recognized as a Negro subscriber was John Chavis, free Negro preacher and teacher of both races in North Carolina. He purchased two copies of *The Beauties of the Evangelical Magazine* published in Philadelphia in 1803. The earliest book by a Negro to which North Carolinians subscribed was *The Poetical Works of George Moses Horton* published in 1845.

A fact of possible interest to those concerned with the history of the Negro in North Carolina is that Alexander Work, Esq., of Iredell County subscribed to William Gordon's *History of the Rise, Progress, and Establishment of the Independence of the United States of America* published in 1789 in New York. This might be seized upon as evidence of his interest in books. It was to this family that Monroe Nathan Work, noted Negro bibliographer and writer, belonged.

Anyone interested in names will find it profitable to study subscription lists. For instance, it was rather unusual in the eighteenth century for a person to have two given names, yet in 1764 we find Capt. Thomas Clifford Howe of New Bern subscribing to James Davis' *A Collection of all the Acts of Assembly*. In 1771 Lancelot Graves Barry, Esq., of Wilmington subscribed to Blackstone's *Commentaries* and three years later to Hawkesworth's *A New Voyage Round the World*. Major Leonard Henly Bullock in 1788 subscribed

to Pattillo's *Sermons*. Out of 1,115 North Carolina subscribers to books in the eighteenth century only fifty-three men had more than one given name. Only two, Jean Louis Baptiste Moignard of Beaufort and John G. L. Schenck of Edgecombe County bore three given names, and they both subscribed to Martin's *The Office and Authority of a Justice of the Peace* in 1791. With the coming of the next century double names became more common, and we even find the name of one Robert C. T. Sydenham Hilliard among the subscribers to George Moses Horton's book of poems.

There is evidence that authors subscribed for their own works. James Iredell, for instance, appears among the list of subscribers to his volume of *Laws of the State of North-Carolina* published in Edenton by Hodge and Wills in 1791.

The names of only two North Carolinians appear among the subscribers to *The Self-Interpreting Bible*, the first Bible printed in New York City, which was issued in 1792. A Wilmington merchant took one copy, and John Boyse, A.M., of Coddle Creek, Iredell County, subscribed for 36 copies. We can only guess what Boyse did with so many copies, but it is easy to imagine that he was a schoolmaster or perhaps a minister and that he sold Bibles to supplement his meager income from teaching or preaching. Merchants frequently subscribed for a number of copies of a title, undoubtedly selling books along with their general merchandise.

The third arbitrary category of subscription books (titles proposed for publication by subscription, but of which no copies are now known and, therefore, presumed never actually to have been printed), is based largely on advertisements which appeared in North Carolina newspapers. Three examples will serve to illustrate this group and at the same time show the results of the efforts of some early journalists to write appealing advertising copy.

On October 6, 1775, the *North-Carolina Gazette*, in a most patriotic tone, recited the

PROPOSALS,

For printing by Subscription,

The most interesting Debates in the House of Commons that ever were agitated in that august and venerable Senate, the Speeches and Proceedings on the late Acts of Parliament, that were intended to sap the Foundations of *American Freedom*, and reduce these once happy Regions to a State of Ministerial Vassallage.

The Proceedings on those Acts of Parliament will be mentioned in Order as they were passed, and consist of the Speeches of Lord *Chatham*, Lord *Camden*, Lord *Effingham*, the young Marquis of *Granby*, the Bishop of *St. Asaph*, Governor *Johnston*, Mr. *Wilkes*, Mr. *Burke*, *William Temple Luttrell*, Mr. *Cruger*, and others; also the Petition and Remonstrance of the Lord Mayor and City of *London*.

To which will be added,

The following *American* Papers that have been published by the Continental, and Provincial Congresses, in Pursuance of passing the above destructive Acts of the *British* Parliament, *viz.*

The Addresses of the first and second Continental Congresses to the King, their Addresses to the People of *Canada*, to the People of *England*, and *Ireland*, and to the People of the Twelve united Colonies of *America*: Also the Address of the Provincial Congress of *Massachusetts-Bay* to the People of *England*, after the Battle of *Lexington*.

CONDITIONS.

That this Work consist of 160 Pages in small Octavo, printed on an elegant Type and *American* Paper, and delivered to the Subscribers, sewed in Boards, at the small Price of three Shillings and six Pence; or neatly bound at five Shillings.

Subscriptions are taken at the Printing-Office in *Newbern*, and Subscription Papers will be sent to the several Counties in this Province.

To the PUBLIC.

This is the first Attempt in this Province to perpetuate the Memory of those noble and venerable Senators who have stood foremost in the grand Struggle for *American* Liberty; and has been promoted and encouraged by a Number of worthy and patriotic Gentlemen in the upper Settlements of this Province [remainder of paper torn, but apparently 500 copies had been subscribed].

Two years later, on July 4, 1777, the same paper came forward with a very ambitious proposition. The editor and printer, James Davis, was offering to subscribers

An exact ABRIDGMENT of all the ACTS of ASSEMBLY of this State in Force and Use, alphabetically digested, down to the Time of publishing the Book.

Together with

An exact Table, Marginal Notes and References, shewing the Time of passing the particular Laws, and the Chapters, as printed at large in the revised Body of Laws of this State.

CONDITIONS.

1st. That the Book will be printed in large Octavo, on good *American* Paper, and a beautiful new Type.

2d. That it will contain about 500 Pages, neatly bound, and delivered to the Subscribers at three Dollars each, one of which Dollars to be paid at the Time of subscribing.

3d. That the Work will be put to Press as soon as 300 Subscribers appear.

To the PUBLIC.

The Usefulness of a Work of this Sort must forcibly strike every Person the least conversant with Business, as an alphabetical Digest must save the Trouble of turning over a voluminous Folio, and present the Reader with what he wants to know at one View; besides its being more portable, and convenient for Use. The Subscriber therefore hopes for the Encouragement of the Public to this Undertaking, and assures them of his best Endeavours to make the Performance useful. When the enormous Price to which every Article of Life is now risen is considered, he hopes the Public will not think three Dollars too high, nor the Payment of one of them at the Time of Subscription, unreasonable.

He begs Leave, as he is now soliciting the Favour of the Public on another Publication, to return them his most sincere Thanks for their great Encouragement to his former Labours, his Revisal of the Laws, and Office of a Justice, having had a rapid Sale, there being but few of them now left on Hand. As he is now detached from the Service of the Public as Printer to the State, in which honourable Service he has laboured *Twenty Eight* Years, he is quite at Leisure, and if properly encouraged, will publish the Book with all imaginable Expedition.

JAMES DAVIS.

Subscription Papers are taken in at the Printing Office in *Newbern*, and Subscription Papers will be sent to the several Counties of the State, of which Public Notice will be given in this Paper.

A third example of the proposed publication of yet another type book will, perhaps, remind readers that the present-day handy, one-volume reference works are really not based on a new idea. In the late winter and early spring of 1799 Wilmington and Salisbury papers brought their readers news of the pending publication, not later than October 20, 1800, of *The North-Carolina Register and Almanac*. It was intended "to be published annually, with such corrections and additions as time may require," they were informed, "to render it a useful Pocket Companion to all its Patrons."²¹

²¹ *The Wilmington Gazette*, March 7, 1799; *The North Carolina Mercury and Salisbury Advertiser*, June 27, 1799.

This new book was to contain

Some useful extracts from the history, geography, constitution and laws of this state.

Observations and directions to masters of vessels and pilots, concerning the navigation and of the coast and rivers of North-Carolina.

Abstract from the constitution and laws of the United States; and a correct list of the members of both houses of congress—the executive officers of the federal government—the consuls and ministers of the United States, residing in foreign countries; and their places of abode—the consuls and ministers of foreign governments, residing within the United States; and their places of abode—the officers and vessels in the navy of the United States—the members of both houses of the state legislature—all other officers of the state, from the governor to the magistrate, whether civil, military, or such as have appointments under the general government, in aid of the revenue; including public notaries, inspectors of produce for exportation, trustees and commissioners of public schools, town officers, sealers of weights and measures, branch pilots, &c.

Also, the times of holding circuit and district courts of the U. States; and of superior and county courts, in this state.

Some account of the incorporated societies in this state, their times of meeting and associations.

A brief account of the manners and times of doing business in the custom houses.

Together with rates of custom-house officers' fees—lighterage—storage—postage—and duties on merchandize imported into the U. States—on tonnage of vessels—on stamp paper, &c.—on wheel carriages—on distilled spirits, the produce of the U. States—on lands—on houses—on negroes—of drawbacks and bounties. And some useful tables of money, time, tide, &c. &c.

The North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina Library has two broadside subscription forms for books which apparently were never published. From New Bern on November 15, 1803, Francois-Xavier Martin announced proposals for printing by subscription "A Digested Index to the American Reports." It was to be put to press the first of January, 1804, and to sell for \$5.00. A list of persons receiving subscriptions in various places from New York to Charleston was included as well as space for listing the names and place of residence of subscribers. A second broadside contains "Proposals for Publishing a Pocket Hymn Book" to contain about 250 pages. "A large number of the Hymns and Songs," we are told, "have never been in print." The form is undated, but subscribers promised

While publishers, or perhaps printers is the more accurate term, seem generally to have relied on newspaper advertisements and printed forms to gather advance subscriptions, we do have the names of a number of individuals who took book subscriptions. In many cases some person in each county of the State was authorized to receive subscriptions. James Davis of New Bern, Abraham Hodge of Halifax, Allmand Hall of Wilmington, and Joseph Gales and William Boylan both of Raleigh, and all five printers, frequently appear as taking subscriptions.

The *Fayetteville Gazette* for October 9, 1792, advertised that copies of *A Collection of the Statutes of the Parliament of Great-Britain, Which are now in force in the State of North-Carolina* would be sent by "the very first opportunity" to distant subscribers, and that copies might be had from William Farris, Washington; Hodge and Wills, Edenton; Joseph Ross, Tarboro; Stephen Camberling, Greenville; B. Stith, Halifax; John Hogg, Hillsboro; Robert Donnell, Wayne County; Perry and Tarbe, Fayetteville; Montfort Stokes, Salisbury; Dr. J. Kingsbury, Mattamuskeet; and William Ferrand, Swansboro.

In the early years of the nineteenth century subscriptions were taken in Warrenton by Richard Davidson, London-born newspaper publisher and judge; in Fayetteville by Peter Perry, a prominent merchant; and in Edenton by Lemuel Standin, long-time postmaster. In New Bern two former Continental Surgeons, Dr. Isaac Guion and Dr. Solomon Halling, took subscriptions. Both men were prominent in Masonic circles, and Halling was also a druggist, schoolmaster, and Episcopal clergyman. Many authors, of course, were also quite actively engaged in procuring subscribers.

Frequently persons desiring to subscribe for a book were instructed to leave their orders with local postmasters, and on at least one occasion "several Gentlemen of the Bar" were reported to be taking subscriptions. Booksellers ranging across the State undoubtedly were glad to act as agents for book publishers as they did for newspaper publishers. Records exist of booksellers operating in North Carolina in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries from Edenton, New Bern, Swansboro, and Wilmington in the east to Salisbury, Salem, and Morganton in the west.²³

XXV (October, 1905), 16-17, Charles E. Taylor noted that Robert Thomas Daniel published a 280-page book entitled "Daniel's Selection" in Raleigh in 1812. It consisted of 176 hymns and 52 "Spiritual Songs." In 1905 Taylor had a copy which he described as "well printed and strongly bound," but recent efforts to locate this copy have been unsuccessful.

²³ *North-Carolina Gazette*, September 24, 1791, December 26, 1795; Adelaide L. Fries (ed.), *Records of the Moravians in North Carolina* (Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission [State Department of Archives and History], 8 volumes, 1922-1954). VIII, 3,414.

A bibliography of seventy-four books having subscription lists which include the names of North Carolinians is the result of more than six years of diligent searching in this country and in England. The earliest of these appeared in 1733 and an arbitrary terminal date of 1850 has been set. In 1795 six titles, the maximum for any one year, were published, and for only three years during that period were there as many as four books. In 1792, 1794, and in 1803 there were four. In 1772, 1791, 1793, 1802, and 1804 there were three. In seven different years there were two, and for the remainder of the time only one or none. The period between 1790 and 1800 represented good years for subscription book salesmen in North Carolina; during that ten-year period, twenty-five titles were offered in forty volumes. Insofar as number of volumes purchased in North Carolina was concerned, however, the five-year period 1802-1807 was more important; 1,459 North Carolinians bought fifteen titles published in twenty-eight volumes.

If any valid conclusion can be drawn from two examples of the publication of second editions, it might be that once the market for a book was satisfied, further editions were useless. The original 1803 edition of *A Concise History of the Kehukee Baptist Association* by Burkitt and Read was popular—321 subscribers purchased 885 copies. A revised edition published in 1850 found only one subscriber in North Carolina. In 1775 thirty-four subscribers, mostly in Hertford County, purchased 121 copies of Hugh Knox's *Moral and Religious Miscellany*. In 1807 only 23 copies of a new edition were sold, this time to residents of Burke County, for the most part.

A classification, while not strictly according to general library practice, will nevertheless give some idea of the interests of North Carolinians during this period. Sixteen books are of a religious nature, including the Bible; twelve relate to law; nine are in the field of history; five are poetry; six each are biography, literature and essays, and geography and travel; eight are on scientific subjects, including natural history and agriculture; two deal with arithmetic and discount and interest; and one each is on a foreign language and shorthand. Worthy of special note is the fact that a United States Senator from North Carolina in 1793 purchased a copy of *The System of Short-hand, practised . . . in Taking Down the Debates of Congress*.

A respectable number of North Carolinians bought Oliver Evans' *The Young Mill-wright & Miller's Guide* (Philadelphia, 1795), and James H. Conway's *The North-Carolina Calculator, or New Practical Arithmetic* published at Salisbury in 1819. Only one saw fit to order

PROPOSALS
FOR PUBLISHING A

POCKET HYMN BOOK.

THE Work will appear in the course of the ensuing summer, neatly printed and bound, and will contain about 250 pages—A large number of the Hymns and Songs have never been in print. The price to Subscribers not to exceed 80 cents each.

We the subscribers promise to pay Robert T. Daniel 80 cents for each copy, agreeable to the above conditions. If none out hands.

SUBSCRIBER'S NAME	No. COPIES	RESIDENCE
Richard Allen	6	Green County
Abraham Sainer	1	Guilford County
Marshall Dickinson	1	Felt County
David Smith	1	Ditto
Elizabeth Cotten	1	Lincolnton, S. C.
Mary Anderson	1	ditto ditto
Raphael Cotten	1	ditto ditto
Elizabeth Bryan	1	ditto ditto
Sally Whitfield	1	ditto ditto
Mary Lane	1	ditto ditto
Thomas Ringold	1	ditto ditto
Bryan McCabe	1	ditto ditto
Sam Sampson	12	Guilford County
Wm. D. Biddle	6	New Bern

A completed subscription form. No copy of Daniel's hymnal has been found, but Dr. Chas. E. Taylor, writing in the *Wake Forest Student* for October, 1905, described a copy which he then had before him. Entitled *Daniel's Selection*, this 280-page book was printed in Raleigh by Thomas Henderson in 1812. This subscription form is in the Bruce Cotten Collection of North Caroliniana at the University of North Carolina Library.

Varlo's *A New System of Husbandry* in 1785, but in 1811 nineteen bought Mason's *The Gentleman's New Pocket Companion, Comprising a General Description of the Noble and Useful Animal the Horse*.

John Marshall's *The Life of George Washington*, published in five volumes in Philadelphia between 1804 and 1807, was the most popular subscription book sold in North Carolina. Some 548 copies were purchased in the State, and it is interesting to note that Mason Locke Weems, whose story of Washington and the cherry tree has almost been accepted as fact, toured North Carolina taking orders for this set of books.²⁴

Only one copy of several titles was sold in North Carolina, but all told, during the forty-one years when at least one subscription book

²⁴ *The American Historical Record and Repository of Notes and Queries*, II (February, 1873), 82-83; James S. Purcell, "A Book Pedlar's Progress in North Carolina," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, XXIX (January, 1952), 8-23.

was sold, North Carolinians purchased 3,481 books. A number of these appeared in two volumes, a few in three, but most were single volumes. Alexander Wilson's *American Ornithology*, however, was published in nine volumes, and the *State Papers and Publick Documents of the United States* filled twelve volumes. These figures suggest that North Carolinians were buying nearly a hundred books a year, on the average, by subscription alone.

If subscription lists reflect geographical interest in books, and some of them obviously do, we must conclude that the press in North Carolina was quite provincial. Out of ten subscription books published in North Carolina between 1764 and 1845 only four were subscribed for outside the State. Virginians took 328 copies of *A Concise History of the Kehukee Baptist Association* published at Halifax in 1803; an even hundred copies of John Haywood's *Reports of Cases Adjudged in the Superior Courts* (Raleigh, 1806), including copies ordered by former North Carolinians Andrew Jackson and Hugh Lawson White in Tennessee, were purchased in that State and in South Carolina, Kentucky, and Virginia; two copies of James Gay's poetry, the first volume of poetry printed in North Carolina, were sold in Connecticut and five in South Carolina; and twelve copies of Joseph Bigg's *Concise History of the Kehukee Baptist Association* were purchased by a Georgian.

Subscribers at home were scattered pretty well over the State, but the large number of them from Rowan, Burke, and Buncombe counties, particularly in the years before 1800, suggests that North Carolinians took advantage of this means of buying books largely because no other sources were readily available to them in rural North Carolina. The subscription book agent undoubtedly created his own market and in so doing contributed to the education of his clients.

SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS²⁵

Aikin, John.

[1]

A view of the life, travels, and philanthropic labors of the late John Howard. Philadelphia: Printed for John Ormond, by W. W. Woodward, 1794.

(6 subscribers)

²⁵ No place of residence is given for the subscribers to entries number 5, 6, and 30 in this bibliography, and only those who can be identified as North Carolinians are considered in reporting the number of subscribers. In the case of number 65, subscribers in North Carolina and Virginia are listed together, so in this study only those persons who can be identified as North Carolinians are considered.

The beauties of the Evangelical Magazine. Philadelphia: Printed by William W. Woodward, 1803, 2 vols. [2]
(4 subscribers)

Belknap, Jeremy. [3]
The history of New-Hampshire. Boston: For the author, 1791-1792. 3 vols.
(2 subscribers)

Benedict, David. [4]
A general history of the Baptist denomination in America, and other parts of the world. Boston: Printed by Manning & Loring . . . for the author, 1813. 2 vols.
(180 subscribers purchased 290 copies)

Bible. [5]
The Holy Bible containing the Old and New Testaments: together with the Apochrypha. Philadelphia: Printed for Mathew Carey, 1802.
(20 subscribers)

The Holy Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, with original notes, practical observations, and copious marginal references. By Thomas Scott, Rector of Aston Sandford, Bucks. Philadelphia: William W. Woodard, 1804-1809. 5 vols. [6]
(10 subscribers)

The self-interpreting Bible: containing the sacred text of the Old and New Testaments. New York: Hodge and Campbell, 1792. [7]
(2 subscribers purchased 37 copies)

Biggs, Joseph. [8]
A concise history of the Kehukee Baptist association, from its original rise to the present time. Tarboro: Printed and published by George Howard, office of the Tarborough (N. C.) Free Press, 1834.
(392 subscribers purchased 650 copies)

Blackstone, William. [9]
Commentaries on the laws of England. Philadelphia: Printed for the subscribers, by Robert Bell, 1771-1772. 4 vols.
(23 subscribers)

Brown, John. [10]
A dictionary of the Holy Bible. Pittsburgh: From the Ecclesiastical and Literary press of Zadok Cramer, 1807. 2 vols.
(4 subscribers)

- Bryan, Daniel. [11]
The mountain muse: comprising the adventures of Daniel Boone; and the power of virtuous and refined beauty. Harrisonburg [Va.] : Printed for the author: by Davidson & Bourne, 1813.
 (1 subscriber)
- Burkitt, Lemuel, and Jesse Read. [12]
A concise history of the Kehukee Baptist association from its original rise down to 1803. Revised and improved by Henry L. Burkitt. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo and Co., 1850.
 (1 subscriber)
- A concise history of the Kehukee Baptist association from its original rise to the present time.* Halifax: Printed by A. Hodge, 1803. [13]
 (321 subscribers purchased 885 copies)
- Calcott, Wellins. [14]
A candid disquisition of the principles and practices of the most antient and honourable society of Free and Accepted Masons. London: Printed: Reprinted and sold by Brother William M'Alpine, in Marlborough-Street, Boston, 1772.
 (3 subscribers)
- Carey, John. [15]
The system of short-hand, practised by Mr. Thomas Lloyd, in taking down the debates of Congress. Philadelphia: Published by J. C. . . . and sold by H. and P. Rice, 1793.
 (1 subscriber)
- Carpenter, Thomas. [16]
The American senator or a copious and impartial report of the debates in the Congress of the United States. Philadelphia: Printed by J. Page, 1796-1797. 3 vols.
 (3 subscribers purchased 4 copies)
- Catesby, Mark. [17]
The natural history of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands. London: Printed at the expence of the author, 1743. 2 vols.
 (1 subscriber)
- Colman, Henry. [18]
European agriculture and rural economy. From personal observation. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Company, 1850. 2 vols.
 (1 subscriber)

- Conway, James H. [19]
The North-Carolina calculator, or new practical arithmetic. Salisbury: Printed by J. Krider, 1819.
 (115 subscribers purchased 190 copies)

- Davies, Samuel. [20]
Sermons on important subjects, by the late reverend and pious Samuel Davies, A.M. . . . The fifth edition. To which are now added, three occasional sermons, not included in the former editions. New York: Printed for T. Allen, 1792.
 (1 subscriber)

- Dickinson, John. [21]
The political writings of John Dickinson, esquire, late president of the state of Delaware, and of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Wilmington [Dela.]: Printed and sold by Bonsal and Niles, 1801.
 2 vols.
 (2 subscribers)

- Dufief, Nicholas Gouin. [22]
Nature displayed, in her mode of teaching language to man. Philadelphia: Printed by Thomas L. Plowman, for the author, 1804.
 2 vols.
 (44 subscribers)

- Evans, Nathaniel. [23]
Poems on several occasions, with some other compositions. Philadelphia: Printed by John Dunlap, in Market-Street, 1772.
 (1 subscriber)

- Evans, Oliver. [24]
The young mill-wright & miller's guide. Philadelphia: Printed for, and sold by the author, 1795.²⁶
 (9 subscribers)

- Gardiner, John, and David Hepburn. [25]
The American gardener. Washington: Printed by Samuel H. Smith, 1804.
 (3 subscribers)

- Gay, James. [26]
A collection of various pieces of poetry, chiefly patriotic. Pub-

²⁶ One of the earliest books of its kind, it was reprinted until as late as 1853. Joseph Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* (New York: Joseph Sabin, 29 volumes, 1868-1936), VI, 273; The Association of Research Libraries, *A Catalog of Books Represented by Library of Congress Printed Cards* (Ann Arbor [Michigan]: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 167 volumes, 1942-1946), XXXXV, 640.

lished at the earnest request of a number of good citizens for the improvement of patriotic minds. Raleigh: Printed by Wm. Boylan, 1810.

(67 subscribers purchased 208 copies)

Goldsmith, Oliver.

[27]

An history of the earth, and animated nature. Philadelphia: Printed for Mathew Carey, 1795. 4 vols.

(5 subscribers)

Gordon, William.

[28]

History of the rise, progress, and establishment of the independence of the United States of America. New York: Printed by Hodge, Allen, and Campbell, 1789. 3 vols.

(107 subscribers purchased 121 copies)

Gutherie, William.

[29]

A new system of modern geography: or, a geographical, historical, and commercial grammar; and present state of the several nations of the world. Philadelphia: Printed by Mathew Carey, 1794-1795. 2 vols.

(5 subscribers)

Halyburt, Thomas.

[30]

Natural religion insufficient and revealed necessary to man's happiness in his present state. Albany: Printed by H. C. Southwick, 1812.

(8 subscribers)

Hanson, Thomas.

[31]

The Prussian evolutions in actual engagements; both in platoons, sub, and grand-divisions. Philadelphia: Printed for the author, by J. Douglass M'Dougall, 1775.

(1 subscriber)

Hawkesworth, John.

[32]

A new voyage, round the world, in the years 1768, 1769, 1770, and 1771; undertaken by . . . Captain James Cooke, in the ship Endeavour, drawn up from his own journal, and from the papers of Joseph Banks, esq., F.R.S., and published by the special direction of the Right Honourable the Lords of the Admiralty. New York: Printed by James Rivington, 1774.

(57 subscribers)

Hopkins, Samuel.

[33]

The system of doctrines, contained in divine revelation, expanded and defended. Boston: Isaiah Thomas and Ebenezer T. Andrews, 1793. 2 vols.

(1 subscriber)

Horatius Flaccus, Quintus.

[34]

The lyric works of Horace, translated into English verse: to which are added a number of original poems. By a native of America. Philadelphia: Printed by Eleazar Oswald, 1786.

(2 subscribers)

Horton, George Moses.

[35]

The poetical works of George M. Horton, the colored bard of North-Carolina. To which is prefixed the life of the author, written by himself. Hillsborough: Printed by D. Heartt, 1845.

(99 subscribers)

Juvenalis, Decimus Junius.

[36]

The satires of Decimus Junius Juvenalis, translated into English verse, by William Gifford. Philadelphia: Printed by Thomas Lowry Plowman, 1803.

(2 subscribers)

Knox, Hugh.

[37]

The moral and religious miscellany. New York: Printed by Hodge and Shober, 1775.

(34 subscribers purchased 121 copies)

The moral and religious miscellany; or, sixty-one aphoretical essays, on some of the most important Christian doctrines and virtues. Gettysburg, Pa.: Printed by Robert Harper, 1807.

[38]

(23 subscribers)

Kollock, Henry.

[39]

Sermons on various subjects, by the late Henry Kollock, D.D., with a memoir of the life of the author. Savannah: Published by S.C. and L. Schenck, 1822. 4 vols.

(25 subscribers purchased 26 copies)

Linn, William.

[40]

Sermons historical and characteristical. New-York: Printed by Childs and Swaine, 1791.

(3 subscribers)

MacWhorter, Alexander.

[41]

A series of sermons, upon the most important principles of our Holy Religion. Newark: Printed by John Wallis, 1803. 2 vols.

(160 subscribers purchased 196 copies)

Marshall, John.

[42]

The Life of George Washington. Philadelphia: Printed & Published by C. P. Wayne, 1804-1807. 5 vols.

(548 subscribers)²⁷

²⁷ Included with the North Carolina subscribers in the published list are three from "Clarke C. H." This obviously is an error, and they have not been considered in this

Martens, Georg Friedrich von. [43]

A summary of the law of nations, founded on the treaties and customs of the modern nations of Europe; with a list of the principal treaties, concluded since the year 1728. Philadelphia: Published by Thomas Bradford, 1795.

(20 subscribers)

Martin, Francois-Xavier. [44]

The office and authority of a justice of the peace, and of sheriffs, coroners, &c. According to the laws of the state of North-Carolina. Newbern: Francois-Xavier Martin, 1791.

(203 subscribers)

Mason, Richard. [45]

The gentleman's new pocket companion, comprising a general description of the noble and useful animal the horse. Petersburg: John Jackson, 1811.

(19 subscribers)

Mayo, Robert. [46]

A new system of mythology, . . . giving a full account of the idolatry of the pagan world. Philadelphia: Printed for Geo. Mayo & Co., by M'Carty & Davis, 1816. 3 vols.

(41 subscribers)

Murray, Judith Sargent. [47]

The gleaner, a miscellaneous production. Boston: Printed . . . by I. Thomas and E. T. Andrews, 1798. 3 vols.

(1 subscriber)

North Carolina (Colony). Laws, statutes, etc. [48]

A collection of all the acts of assembly, of the Province of North-Carolina, in force and use, since the revisal of the laws in 1751. Together with the titles of all such laws as are obsolete, had their effect, expir'd or repeal'd. With an exact table. To which is prefixed, a list of the names of those gentlemen who subscribed for the book. Newbern: Printed by James Davis, 1764.

(82 subscribers)

North Carolina. Laws, statutes, etc. [49]

A collection of the private acts of the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina, from the year 1715, to the year 1790, inclusive, now in force and use. Newbern: Francois-Xavier Martin, 1794.

(42 subscribers purchased 146 copies)

study. Among the Virginia subscribers are thirteen from "Charlotte." These include six men named Alexander and one named Allison which certainly are Charlotte, North Carolina, names, but these thirteen have not been considered here.

A collection of the statutes of the Parliaments of England in force in the State of North Carolina. Published according to a resolve of the General Assembly by Francois-Xavier Martin, Esq. Counsellor at Law. Newbern: The editor's press, 1792. [50]

(104 subscribers purchased 116 copies)

Laws of the State of North-Carolina. Published, according to act of assembly, by James Iredell. Edenton: Printed by Hodge & Wills, Printers to the State of North Carolina, 1791. [51]

(235 subscribers purchased 340 copies)

North Carolina. Superior Courts. [52]

Reports of cases adjudged in the Superior Courts of Law and Equity, Court of Conference, and Federal Court. For the State of North Carolina; from the year 1797 to 1806. By John Haywood, Esq., Vol. II. Raleigh: Printed by William Boylan, 1806.²⁸

(178 subscribers purchased 179 copies)

Pattillo, Henry. [53]

Sermons, &c. Wilmington [Dela.]: James Adams, 1788.

(104 subscribers purchased 165 copies)

Priestley, Joseph. [54]

A description of a set of charts of biography, comprising the names of persons of the greatest eminence of every class. Philadelphia: Printed by Samuel Akerman, for Mathew Carey, 1804.

(17 subscribers)

Ramsay, David. [55]

History of the United States, from their first settlement as English colonies, in 1607, to the year 1808 . . . continued to the Treaty of Ghent, by S. S. Smith. Philadelphia: Published by Mathew Carey, for the sole benefit of the heirs of the author, 1810-1817. 3 vols.

(16 subscribers)

Robinson, Robert. [56]

The history of Baptism, edited by David Benedict. Boston: From the press of Lincoln & Edmands, 1817.

(32 subscribers purchased 93 copies)

Rowlett, John. [57]

Rowlett's tables of discount, or interest, on every dollar. Philadelphia: Printed for the proprietor, by Hugh Maxwell, 1802.

(9 subscribers)

²⁸ An earlier volume with a similar title was published in Halifax in 1799, but there is nothing in it to indicate that it was sold by subscription.

- Scott, Joseph. [58]
The new and universal gazetteer; or, modern geographical dictionary. Philadelphia: Printed by Patterson & Cochran, 1799-1800. 4 vols.
 (23 subscribers)
- Smith, Samuel Stanhope. [59]
Sermons, by Samuel Stanhope Smith, D. D., President of the College of New-Jersey. Newark: Printed and sold by Jacob Halsey and Co., 1799.
 (1 subscriber)
- Smyth, John Ferdinand Dalziel. [60]
A tour of the United States of America: containing an account of the present situation of that country. London: Printed for G. Robinson, 1784.
 (1 subscriber)
- The Spirit of the farmer's museum, and lay preacher's gazette.* [61]
 Walpole [N. H.]: Printed for Thomas & Thomas, by T. Carlisle, 1801.
 (6 subscribers purchased 13 copies)
- Spurrier, John. [62]
The practical farmer: being a new and compendious system of husbandry, adapted to the different soils and climates of America. Wilmington [Dela.]: Printed by Brynberg and Andrews, 1793.
 (1 subscriber)
- State papers and publick documents of the United States from the accession of George Washington to the presidency.* [63]
 Boston: Printed and published by Thomas B. Wait, 1819. 3rd edition. 12 vols.
 (14 subscribers)
- Swift, Zephaniah. [64]
A system of the laws of the state of Connecticut. Windham [Conn.]: Printed by John Byrne, for the author, 1795-1796. 2 vols.
 (12 subscribers)
- Tousard, Anne Louis de. [65]
American artillerist's companion, or elements of artillery. Philadelphia: Published by C. and A. Conrad & Company, 1809-1813. 3 vols.²⁹
 (5 subscribers)

²⁹ A copy of the prospectus for this book was sent by the author to the governor of North Carolina. It is now in the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina Library.

Varlo, Charles.

[66]

A new system of husbandry. From many years experience, with tables shewing the expence and profit of each crop. Philadelphia: The author, 1785. 2 vols.

(1 subscriber)

Virginia (Colony). Laws, statutes, etc.

[67]

The acts of assembly, now in force, in the colony of Virginia. Williamsburg: Printed by William Hunter, 1752.

(4 subscribers)

A collection of all the acts of assembly, now in force, in the colony of Virginia. Williamsburg: Printed by William Parks, 1733.

[68]

(4 subscribers)

Webster, Noah.

[69]

A collection of essays and fugitive writings. On moral, historical, political and literary subjects. Boston: Printed for the author, by I. Thomas and E. T. Andrews, 1790.

(2 subscribers)

The Weekly magazine of original essays, fugitive pieces, and interesting intelligence. Philadelphia: J. Watters & Co., 1798-1799.

[70]

(1 subscriber)

Williams, Samuel.

[71]

The natural and civil history of Vermont. Walpole, Newhampshire: Printed by Isaiah Thomas and David Carlisle, jun., 1794.

(2 subscribers)

Wilson, Alexander.

[72]

American ornithology; or, the natural history of the birds of the United States. Philadelphia: Bradford and Inskeep, 1808-1814. 9 vols.

(12 subscribers)

Witherspoon, John.

[73]

The works of the Rev. John Witherspoon, D.D. L.L.D. late president of the college at Princeton, New-Jersey. To which is prefixed an account of the author's life, in a sermon occasioned by his death, by the Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, of New-York. Philadelphia: Printed and published by William W. Woodard, 1802. 2nd ed. 4 vols.

(116 subscribers purchased 145 copies)

The World displayed. Philadelphia: Published by Dobelbower, Key, and Simpson, 1796.

[74]

(7 subscribers)

SUBSCRIBERS.

The State of NORTH-CAROLINA, (Seventy copies.)

- S**ILAS W. ARNETT, Esq; Counsellor at Law, *Newbern.*
 Brigadier General James Armstrong, *Pitt.*
 Capt. John Alderton, *Hyls.*
 Mr. William Anthony, *Newbern.*
- His Excellency William Blount, Esq; Governor of the territory of the United States, south of the river Ohio, near Knoxville.
 Blake Baker, Esq; Counsellor at Law, *Edgewcombe.*
 Mr. John Burgwin, merch't, *New-Hanover.*
 William Eor et, Esq; J. P. *Carteret.*
 Mr. Nicholas A. Bray, *Jones.*
 Thomas Blount, Esq; *Edgewcombe.*
 Stephen Brooks, Esq; J. P. *Pitt.*
 Richard Blackledge, Esq; J. P. *Beaufort.*
 William Blackledge, Esq; Attorney at Law, *Newbern.*
- Hon. Stephen Cabarrus, Esq; Speaker of the House of Commons, *Chowan.*
 Mr. Daniel Carby, *Newbern.*
 John Carter, Esq; J. P. *Craven.*
 Mr. James Carney, *Newbern.*
 Hugh Campbell, Esq; J. P. *Wilmington.*
 John A. Campbell Esq; J. P. *New-Hanover.*
 Winston Caswell, Esq; Clerk of Lemire County Court.
 Mr. Thomas L. Cheele, *Newbern.*
- George Davis, Esq; Counsellor at Law, *Brunswick.*
 George Duffy, Esq; Counsellor at Law, *Carteret.*
 William Duffy, Esq; Attorney at Law, *Newbern.*
- Stephen Daniel, Esq; J. P. *Brunswick.*
 Mr. Stephen W. Dunn, *Craven.*
 William R. Davie, Esq; Counsellor at Law, *Hulifax.*
 John Daves, Esq; Collector of the Revenue of the United States, *Newbern.*
- James Ellis, Esq; Clerk and Master in Equity, for the District of *Newbern.*
 George Ellis, Esq; one of the commissioners of the town of *Newbern.*
- Mr. Frederick Foy, *Craven.*
 John Franks, Esq; J. P. *Jones.*
 Lr. James Fergus, *Wilmington.*
- Hon. W. B. Graves, Esq; member of the House of Representatives of the United States, *Fayetteville.*
 Hon. James Glasgow, Esq; Secretary of State, *Glasgow.* (2 copies.)
 Thomas Gray, Esq; Counsellor at Law, *Johnston.*
 William Green, Esq; *Wilmington.*
 Mr. Henry Gray, Student at Law, *Johnston.*
 Mr. John A. Grenade, *Jones.*
 Isaac Guion, Esq; J. P. *Newbern.*
 Edward Graham, Esq; Counsellor at Law, *Newbern.*
- Hon. Benjamin Hawkins, Esq; Senator of the United States, *Warren.*
 William Hill, Esq; Attorney of the United States, for the North-Carolina District, *Wilmington.*
 John Haywood, Esq; Public Treasurer, *Hillsborough.*

First page of the printed list of subscribers in Francois-Xavier Martin's *A Collection of the Statutes of the Parliament of England in Force in the State of North Carolina*, printed in New Bern in 1792.

SUBSCRIBERS

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A

Abel, Wel, Beaufort, 8
 Abington, Hardiman, Northampton, 13

- Abraham, John A., Merchant, 58
 Adam, Robert, Fayetteville, 29; Mr., Robert, Fayetteville, 28
 Adams, John P., Louisville, 45
 Ackin, John, Burke, 19
 Aires, Richard, Martin, 8
 Albertson, Benjamin, Edenton District, 44
 Alderson, Capt. John, Hyde, 50
 Alexander, Mr., Newbern, 32; Amos, jun, Mecklenburgh, 41; E., Salisbury, 42; Elijah, Mecklenburgh, 41; Evan, attorney at law, Mecklenburgh, 28; Geo. H., Tyrrell, 8; Isaac, Charlotte, 22; J. M'Nitt, Esq., Mecklenburgh, 41; Dr. J. R., Mecklenburgh, 41; Capt. James, 26; Nathaniel, Mecklenburgh, 41; Reuben, 73; Robert, Esq., Lincoln, 51; Major Thomas, Mecklenburgh, 41; William, sen., Mecklenburgh, 41; William Lee, Cabarrus, 52
 Allcock, William, Hyde, 8
 Allen, George, 53; James, Bertie, 13; Mrs. Jermina, Edenton, 37; Jesse, Wilkes, 38; John, Esq., J.P., Craven, 44; John, Fayetteville, 52; N., Newbern, 52; Nathaniel, esq., Edenton, 28; Nathaniel, Edenton District, 44; Shadrac, Esq., Pitt, 44
 Alleyn, Dr. George, Edenton, 68
 Allison, David, Esq., Attorney at Law, and Clerk of the Superior Court of Mero district, 51;³⁰ Joseph, 26; Richard, Burke, 19; Robert, Cabarus, 41; William, Charlotte, 22
 Allston, P., Warrenton, 42; William, Warren, 44
 Alston, A., 35; Mr. John, Johnston, 48; John T., Halifax, 42; Lemuel, Lincoln, 42; Medicus, Warren, 42; W., sen., Esq., Halifax, 51; Willis, esq., MHRUS, 21³¹
 Alves, G., Hillsboro, 42; W., Hillsboro, 42; Walter, Esq., Hillsborough, 49
 Ambrose, Micajah, Washington, 8; Mr. Phillip, Newbern, 48
 Amis, Thomas, merchant, Halifax, 51; Thomas, Esq., Hawkins,³² 51; William, Northampton, 42
 Anderson, Daniel, Esq., Warrenton, 51; David, Fayetteville, 42; G., Hillsboro, 42; Rev. John, 73
 Andrews, Edmund, Pitt, 8; Jesse, Edgecombe, 4
 Anthony, William, Newbern, 50; Mr. William, Hatter, Newbern, 49
 Applewhite, Elisha, Halifax, 7
 Armestead, Richard, 41
 Armfield, William, Esq., 73
 Armistead, William, Esq., Bertie, 51

³⁰ The Mero District was in Tennessee. Since this territory was not ceded by North Carolina and accepted by the United States until April 2, 1790, Allison undoubtedly was a citizen (if not a native) of North Carolina at the time of subscribing.

³¹ MHRUS is an abbreviation used a number of times for "Member, House of Representatives, United States."

³² A county formed in 1787 in North Carolina's western territory which was ceded to the United States in 1790 to become the State of Tennessee. David Leroy Corbitt, *The Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943* (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950), 117, hereinafter cited as Corbitt, *Formation of North Carolina Counties*.

Armstrong, Gray, Edgecombe, 8; James, Esq., J.P., Pitt, 44; Brigadier General James, Pitt, 50; Thomas, Cumberland, 28; Thomas, Orange, 41
 Arnett, S. W., Esq., Attorney, Craven, 44; S. W., Attorney at Law, Newbern, 51; Silas W., Esq., Counsellor at Law, Newbern, 50
 Arnold, Clement, Randolph, 52; David, Halifax, 42; Whitlock, Randolph, 52
 Arquehart, Alexander, Bertie, 13
 Arrington, Arthur, Esq., Nash, 51; Thos. M., 35; William, Esq., Sheriff, Nash, 51
 Ash, Samuel, New Hanover, 43
 Ashburn, Baldy, Bertie, 13
 Ashe, Elisha, Halifax, 42; Hon. John B., one of the Representatives from this state in the Congress of the United States, for Roanoke division, 51; John Baptist, MHRUS, 15; Mr. Samuel, Attorney at Law, N. Hanover, 48; Major Samuel, New Hanover, 49; Hon. Samuel, one of the judges of the Superior Court, 28
 Ashworth, Ann, Buncomb, 4
 Askew, David, Bertie, 13; James, Hertford, 13; John, Bertie, 13
 Atkins, Capt. John, Rockingham Co., 4
 Atkinson, B., Tarboro, 42; Henry, Casewell C.H., 42; Joel, Halifax, 8; John, Johnston, 52; John A., Pitt, 8; Theo, Edgecombe, 8
 Auslan, Mr., Newbern, 32
 Austur, Benjamin, Burke, 19
 Avera, Alexander, esq., Cumberland, 28
 Avery, Isaac T., Burke, 19; James, Burke, 19; Waightstill, Esq., Attorney at Law, Burke, 51
 Avory, Waigstill, Esq., Salisbury County, 9

B

Badger, Thomas, 64
 Baggarly, Benjamin, 26
 Baggett, Granbury, 4
 Bailey, Richard, Beaufort, 8; T. B., 35; Thomas A., Beaufort, 8; Warner G., Martin, 8
 Baily, Samuel, Esq., Rutherford, 56
 Baines, George, sen., Chowan, 51
 Bains, George, Edenton Dist., 44
 Baird, Matthew, Burke, 19; Robert, 26; William L., Burke, 19
 Baker, Elder Abram, Brunswick, 13; Ambrose, Halifax, 44; Benjamin, Bertie, 13; Blake, Bertie, 13; Blake, Esq., Attorney at Law, Halifax, 48; Blake, Esq., Att. at law, Tarborough, 51; Blake, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Edgecombe, 50; Blake, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Tarborough, 49; Blake, Farborough, 43; Henry, Scotland Neck, 54; Henry, Esq., Hertford, 51; Isaac, Wilmington, 42; John, Esq., Gates, 51; Joseph, Newbern, 42; Lawrence, Edenton Dist., 44; Simmons, Halifax, 42
 Balfour, Col. William, Edgecombe, 4

- Ball, William, 8
 Ballard, Wyatt, Edgcombe, 13
 Ballew, William, Burke, 19
 Banks, Benjamin, Northampton, 13; Thomas, Northampton, 13
 Banner, Charles, Salem, 52; Jo., 73
 Barclay, Rhoades, Northampton, 13
 Barcly, John, Thyatira,³³ 41
 Barden, John, Martin, 8; Richard, Hertford, 13
 Barfield, James, 5
 Barham, Benjamin A., Raleigh, 46
 Barker, Samuel, Northampton, 4
 Barlow, A. K., Edgcombe, 8; Lewis, Halifax, 13
 Barnes, Bennet, Nash, 8; Edwin, 4; James, Nash, 8; James, Esq.,
 Halifax, 48; John W., Edgcombe, 8; Joshua, Greene, 4; Reddick,
 Edgcombe, 8
 Barnett, Thomas, 53
 Barnett, Thomas, 73
 Barns, Benjamin, Edgcombe, 4; Thomas, Lumberton, 42
 Barringer, V. C., 35
 Barron, Mr. David, Newbern, 32; James, Edgcombe, 8; Mr. James,
 Bertie, 28; Samuel G., Newbern, 42
 Barrow, Edmund, Murfreesborough, 13; Frederick D., Beaufort, 8;
 J. Halifax, 54; Thomas, Beaufort, 8; William T., Beaufort, 8
 Barrows, George, Esq., J.P., Hyde, 44
 Barry, The Hon. Charles, Esq., Chief Justice, 48; Lancelot Graves,
 Esq., Newbern, 9, 32; *see also* Berry; Richard, Mecklinburgh, 41;
 Capt. Richard, Mecklenburg, 48
 Baskerville, Geo. T., 35
 Bass, John, Halifax, 8; Uriah, Newbern, 42; Uriah, Wayne, 52
 Bates, Charles, Newbern, 42
 Battle, Alfred L., Edgcombe, 4; Amos J., Nash, 8; Andrews, Edge-
 combe, 4; Elisha, Esq., Edgcomb, 51; Major Elisha, Onslow, 49;
 Jacob, Edgcombe, 13; Jacob, Esq., Edgcomb, 51; James L.,
 Edgcombe, 4; James S., Nash, 8; Jeremiah, Tarboro, 42; Jesse,
 Nash, 8; Jethro, Edgcombe, 4; John, Anson, 52; Joseph S., Edge-
 combe, 4, 8
 Batts, Benjamin, Edgcombe, 8; Lucy, Edgcombe, 7
 Baum, Abraham, Currituck, 13
 Baxter, Joshua, Currituck, 8
 Bazemore, Jesse, jun. [Martin?], 13
 Beale, Joseph, Fayetteville, 28
 Beard, John, Salisbury, 42; L., Salisbury, 42; L., Esq., Salisbury, 51;
 see also De Beard
 Beasley, Abraham, New-Hanover, 13
 Beason, Jacob, 53
 Beatty, Thomas, Esq., Center,³⁴ 41; William, Charlotte, 22

³³ Thyatira is a Presbyterian Church in Rowan County.

³⁴ Center is a Presbyterian Church in Iredell County.

- Beck, J. E., Fayetteville, 22; John, Fayetteville, 42; Matthew, Northampton, 13
- Becks, Jonathan, Edenton Dist., 44
- Beesley, Abraham, New-Hanover, 4; Solomon, New-Hanover, 4
- Bell, Bythell, Esq., Tarborough, 51; Ebenezer, Hyde, 8; John, Halifax, 8; John B., Halifax, 8; Mr. Thomas, Newbern, 32; Walter, Halifax, 42
- Benbury, Richard, Esq., Chowan, 51; Thomas, Esq., Collector of the port of Edenton, 51
- Benjamin, Joseph, 35
- Benners, Jacob Lucas, Craven, 44; John, Esq., Newbern, 32; Lucas J., Esq., Craven, 51
- Bennet, Doctor Richard, 26; Mr. William, Edenton, 37
- Bennett, Mark, Edgecombe, 8
- Benning, Mr. Arthur, Newbern, 32
- Bennit, J. B., Chowan, 42
- Benson, Carrowan, Hyde, 8
- Benton, A., Chapel Hill, 42; Samuel, Hillsboro, 42
- Bergen, M., Burke, 19
- Bernard, Germain, Esq., J.P., Hyde, 44
- Berrie, Ezekiel, Hyde, 8
- Berry, John, Hyde, 8; John, Pasquotank, 13; L[ancelot] G[raves], Esq., Collector of his Majesty's Customs at Port Beaufort, Newbern, 32; *see also* Barry; Nathl., 30; W. G., Newbern, 42
- Best, William, Northampton, 13
- Betheli, Maj. Will, Rockingham Co., 4
- Bethill, William, Orange, 41
- Betner, Henry T., Newbern, 42
- Biars, William, 53
- Biddle, Wm. P., near Newbern, 56
- Biggam, Alexander, Fayetteville, 28
- Biggar, Joseph, Mecklinburgh, 41
- Biggleston, James, Esq., privy Secretary to his Excellency the Governor, Newbern, 32
- Biggs, Amariah, 4; Daniel, Martin, 8; Elder Joseph, Martin, 13; Joseph, Martin, 4; Joseph, Williamston, 56; Joseph D., Martin, 8; Thomas, Martin, 8; Warren, Martin, 8
- Bill, David, Carteret, 4; Edward, Carteret, 4
- Billingsley, Lias, Esq., Montgomery, 4
- Billops, William W., Currituck, 13
- Binchann, Richard, Orange, 42
- Bingham, William, 28, 41; Rev. William, 2
- Bishop, Arthur, Halifax, 8; J., Halifax, 52; James, Halifax, 42; John, Halifax, 8; *see also* Isaacs Levy & Bishop
- Bissell, Josiah, 30
- Bissett, Duncan, Halifax, 42
- Black, Alexander, esq., Merchant, Edenton, 28
- Blackely [Blakely], Johnston, Officers of the U. S. Army and Navy, 65

- Blackledge, Richard, Newbern, 42; Richard, Esq., J.P., Beaufort, 50;
William, Newbern, 52; William, Esq., Attorney at Law, Newbern,
50
- Blackman, Stephen, Esq., Dobbs, 48
- Blair, Mrs. Jean, Edenton, 37; William, Edenton, 42, 52
- Blake, William K., 35
- Blakely, John, 28
- Blanks, Mr. John, Craven, 49
- Blight, George W., Elizabeth Town, 39
- Blin, Peter, Esq., Beaufort, 48
- Blithe, David, Burke, 19
- Bloodworth, Hon. Timothy, 73; Timothy, Wilmington, 42
- Blount, _____ [*blank*], Beaufort, 8; Edmund, Esq., Chowan, 28, 51;
Edmund, Edenton Dist., 44; Edmund, Esq., Tyrrel, 51; Edmund,
Washington Co., 42; Henry, Beaufort, 8; Mrs. I. S., Tarboro, 47;
J. G., 72; J. G., Washington, 42; Jo., Washington, 42; John G.,
Esq., Washington, 51; Sharpe, Winton, 52; Thomas, 64; Thomas,
Esq., Edgecombe, 50, 51; Thomas, Tarboro, 42; Thomas, Far-
borough, 43; Thomas, M.C. from Farborough, 74; Thomas, esq.,
M.C. from North Carolina, 29; Thomas, N. C. Representative,
24; Thomas H., Washington, 22, 52; William, Esq., Governor of
the Territory of the United States, south of the river Ohio, near
Knoxville, 50; His Excellency William, Esq., Governor of the
territory of the U. S. south of the river Ohio, 51; William, Esq.,
M.C., 16; Wilson, merchant, Newbern, 51
- Bobbit, John D., Louisburg, 46
- Boddie, George, Nash, 42; Nathan, Esq., Nash, 51
- Bond, Hance, Esq., Halifax, 51; Henry, Edenton District, 44; John,
Bertie, 13; Lewis, Edgecombe, 8; W., Hillsboro, 42
- Bonner, James, Esq., J.P., Beaufort, 44; Thomas, Washington, 42;
Col. Thomas, Edenton, 37
- Boomer, William, Hyde, 8
- Boone, Joseph, Newbern, 42
- Borden, William, Esq., J.P., Carteret, 50; William, jun., Esq., Car-
teret, 44
- Boroughs, Bryon, Esq., Moore, 4
- Borretz, William, Esq., Edenton, 51
- Borritz, William, Edenton District, 44
- Bortles, Christian, Burke, 19
- Bosworth, Obadiah, Chowan, 28
- Bouchell, Thos., Burke, 19
- Bourdeaux, Isaac, Barnwell, 54
- Boush, Mr. James, Hertford Town, 37; Mr. William, Hertford Town,
37
- Bowdon, John, 53
- Bowen, Levin, Washington, 8
- Bowers, Lewelling, Martin, 8
- Bowman, Rev. James, Orange, 41; James, Center, 41; Joseph, Meck-
linburgh, 41; Samuel, Charlotte, 22

- Boyce, William H., Hertford, 13
 Boyd, James, Granville, 45
 Boylan, W., Raleigh, 42; William, Raleigh, 61
 Boyse, John, A.M., Coddle Creek, Iredell County, 7
 Bradie, Peter, Hyde, 8
 Bradley, David, Edgecombe, 8; James, Edgecombe, 8; James A., Mecklinburgh, 41; John, Wilmington, 42; Willis, Edgecombe, 8
 Bradshaw, Thomas, Orange, 41
 Brady, Sarah, Edgecombe, 8
 Brake, Daniel, Edgecombe, 8; Daniel, Nash, 8; Dorris, Edgecombe, 8; Jesse, Nash, 8
 Braley, James, Center, 41
 Branch, John, Halifax, 52; John, Esq., Halifax, 13, 51; William, Esq., Halifax, 51
 Brandon, Matthew, Esq., Salisbury, 51; Wm., 26
 Branson, Henry, Fayetteville, 52
 Brawley, James G., 26
 Bray, Nicholas, Newbern, 51; Mr. Nicholas, Newbern, 28; Nichols A., Jones, 50
 Breden, Andrew, Rowan, 10; James, Rowan, 10; John, Rowan, 10; Joseph, Burk, 10
 Brevard, Adam, esq., Iredell, 28; Captain Alexander, Lincoln, 41; Robert, Center, 41
 Brewer, Turner, Halifax, 8
 Brickell, Benjamin, Tarborough, 52; Thomas A., Edenton Dist., 44; W., Lewisburg, 42; Col. William, Franklin, 28
 Brickhouse, Benj., Tyrrell, 8; Gilbert, Tyrrell, 8; M. P., Tyrrell, 8
 Bridgman, Green, Hyde, 8; Joseph, Hyde, 8; Lancaster, Hyde, 8; Thomas, Hyde, 8
 Bright, Simon, Esq., Dobbs, 48; Simon, Esq., J.P. Dobbs, 44; Willis, Edenton Dist., 44
 Brim, Jacob, Lincoln, 19
 Brimage, William, Esq., Salisbury County, 9
 Brinson, Mr. Cason, Jun., Craven, 48
 Britt, Joseph, Northampton, 13
 Brittain, Aaron, Burke, 19; Mark, Burke, 19; William, Burke, 19
 Britton, Michael, Bertie, 13
 Brogden, Timothy, Currituck, 13
 Brookes, C. B., 35; G. W., 35; Stephen, Esq., J.P., Pitt, 44, 50
 Brouard, F. Dte., 43
 Brount, Charles, Washington, 8
 Brower, John, Randolph, 52
 Brown, Daniel, 73; Duncan, 73; James Noice, Charlotte, 22; Jean, Mecklinburgh, 41; Jethro, Esq., Caswell, 4; Maj. John, Caswell, 4; John H., Caswell C.H., 42; John S., Pitt, 8; Michael, Salisbury, 46; Neill, 73; Peter, Center, 41; Peter, Salisbury, 42; Reuben, Edgecombe, 8; Ridley, 35; Thomas, 41; Thomas, Granville, 39, 42; Thomas, Wilmington, 52; William, 4; Mr. William, Newbern, 32

Browne, A. S., Sampson C.H., 55; Benjamin, Hertford, 13; Jeremiah, Esq., Hertford, 13; P., Halifax, 42; Patrick, Murfreesboro', 42
 Brownrigg, T., Esq., near Edenton, 56; Thomas, Halifax, 54
 Bruce, Abner, Hillsboro, 42
 Bryan, Hardy, Esq., Johnston, 49; James, Newbern, 42; James P., 35; Jesse, Newbern, 51; John, Martin, 8; Joseph, Esq., Martin, 51; Joseph H., Windsor, 13, 55; Lewis, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44; Lewis, Newbern, 42; Morgan H., 5; Robert, Edgecombe, 8; William, Newbern, 42; William, Esq., Johnston, 48
 Bryant, James, Halifax, 42
 Buck, Nancy, Pitt, 8
 Buie, Duncan, 73
 Bullock, Major Len. H., 53; Micajah, Granville, 42; Rd., Warren, 42
 Bunbury, Dr. B. Murfreesborough, 13
 Bunch, Henry, 4; Jeremiah, Northampton, 13
 Bunn, Redmond, Esq., Nash, 51
 Burdin, William, Bertie, 13
 Burford, Captain Philip, 53
 Burgee, Thomas J., 41
 Burges, Demsey, Esq., M.C., 16; Thomas, Halifax, 42
 Burgess, Dempsey, M.C., 74; Demsey, Edenton Dist., 44; Lovett, Esq., Clerk of Halifax Superior Court, 51
 Burgwin, George H. B., 72; John, Esq., Wilmington, 51; John, Merchant, New Hanover, 50, John F., 72
 Burke, Edward, Burke, 19
 Burkett, Rev. Lemuel, Northampton, 51
 Burklow, Isaac, Fayetteville, 28
 Burlinghame, William, Windsor, 13
 Burnett, Isaiah, Chatham, 52
 Burroughs, Anthony, Martin, 13
 Burt, Wm., Esq., Halifax, 13; Capt. Wm., Warren, 56
 Burton, A. M., 41; F. N. W., Granville, 52; F. N. W., Williamsboro', 42; Hutchins G., Esq., 26; Iohn, Newbern, 42; James M., Granville, 52; Richard, Granville, 42; Col. Robert, Williamsborough, 28
 Bush, W., Halifax, 42
 Buston, Samuel, New-Hanover, 13
 Butler, John E., Burke, 19; Samuel, Edenton, 42; Capt. Samuel, Edenton, 28, 51
 Buxton, Samuel, New-Hanover, 4
 Byers, Robert, Center, 41
 Bynum, Benjamin, Pitt, 8; John B., 35; Turner, Edgecombe, 8
 Byrd, Arthur, Hertford, 13
 Byrum, William Bertie, 13

C

Cabarrus, Stephen, Edenton, 42; Stephen, Esq., Hon. Speaker of the House of Commons, Chowan, 50; The Honorable Stephen, Esq.,

- Speaker of the House of Commons, 44; Stephen, Esq., Speaker of the House of Commons, Chowan, 51
- Cain, James, Esq., Nash, 51; W., jun., Hillsboro, 42
- Caines, John, Wilmington, 51
- Caldwell, Rev. Andrew, 73; David, 36; David, esq., Rowan, 28; Rev. David, Guilford, 73; David, jun., 73; Jno., Burke, 19; John W., 73; Rev. Joseph, 2; Joseph, Chapel-Hill, 41; Joseph, Hillsboro, 42; Samuel C., Charlotte, 42; Rev. Samuel C., Mecklinburgh, 41
- Cale, Jeremiah, Hertford, 13
- Callender, Thos., 58
- Cameron, Duncan, 26; Duncan, Hillsboro, 42; Florence, 73; J. W., 35; Mrs. Mary, 73
- Campbell, Æneas, Esq., 26; Archibald, 73; Catlett, Hillsboro, 42; Hon. David, Esq., one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity, in the territory of the U. S. south of the river Ohio, 51; Dugall, Fayetteville, 28; F., Anson, 52; Mr. Farquer, Cumberland, 28; Green H., Fayetteville, 22; Hugh, Salisbury, 42; Hugh, Esq., J.P., Wilmington, 50; James, Esq., 26; John, 73; John, Orange, 41; John, bookseller, Wilmington, 28; Mr. John, Merchant, Wilmington, 7; John A., Esq., J.P., New Hanover, 50; John Y., 35; Joseph, Edenton Dist., 44; Thomas, Salisbury, 42; William, Wilmington, 42
- Canady, Cornelius, Carteret, 4; Richard, Carteret, 4
- Cansler, Alexr. J., 35
- Carberry, Mr. Thomas, Newbern, 32
- Carethers, James, Thyatira, 41
- Cargill, John, esq., Wilkes, 28
- Carmer, James, Martin, 42
- Carmen, Doctor Joshua, Fayetteville, 28
- Carney, James, Craven, 44; James, Newbern, 42, 49, 51; John, Esq., Craven, 51; John, Esq., J.P., Craven, 44, 50; Leonard, Rockingham Co., 4; Richard, Edgecombe, 8; Stephen W., Halifax, 42; Gen. Stephen W., Halifax, 13; Stephen Wright, Esq., Halifax, 51
- Carpenter, Samuel, Esq., Rutherford, 51
- Carrington, Charles, Washington, 22; Wm. A., Halifax, 39
- Carrowan, Marian, Hyde, 8; Wash'n, Hyde, 8
- Carson, Henry, Salisbury, 41; James, 53; John, Burke, 19; Joseph McD., Burke, 19
- Carter, Cullen, Bertie, 13; Isaac, jun., Hertford, 13; Jesse, esq., Caswell, 28, 41; Solomon, Beaufort, 8; W. F., 35; W. W., Halifax, 42
- Carthy, Daniel, Craven, 44; Daniel, Newbern, 50, 52
- Cary, Mr. James, Jun., Attorney at Law, Northampton, 48
- Casey, John, Hillsboro, 42
- Cash, Ingoe Dozier, Anson, 52
- Caswell, R. W., Raleigh, 42; Col. Richard, Dobbs, 48; Col. Richard, Speaker of the Assembly, 9; Winston, Esq., Clerk of Lenoir County Court, 50
- Cauthorn, Thomas, 53

- Cerms, Jacob, Beaufort, 8
 Chaffin, Amos, Burke, 19
 Chambers, Elijah, Burke, 56; Elisha, Burke, 56; Henry, 26; M., Salisbury, 42; Maxwell, esq., Salisbury, 28, 41, 51; Wm., Salisbury, 41
 Chapman, Samuel, Newbern, 42
 Charlton, William B., Montgomery C.H., 55
 Chavis, John, 2
 Cheatham, W. B., Murfreesboro', 42; William B., Murfreesborough, 13, 56
 Cheeke, Thomas L., Newbern, 50
 Cheny, James, Edenton Dist., 44
 Cherry, James, Hertford, 13; Jeremiah, 5; Elder Jonathan, Martin, 13; Lunsford R., Edgecombe, 8; Solomon, Bertie, 13; Theo, Edgecombe, 8; Thos. B., Edgecombe, 8; W., Windsor, 42
 Child, Cornelius, Moore, 4
 Christee, Rachel, Rockingham, 56
 Christie, Rachel, Caswell, 4
 Christmas, Richard, 5; Thos., sen., Warrenton, 42; Capt. Tho., 53
 Church, Richard J., Burke, 19
 Churchill, Charles, Newbern, 42
 Clanton, D., 35
 Clark, Andrew, merchant, Fayetteville, 28; David, Plymouth, 42; J. W., Tarborough, 46; Jones, Charlotte, 22; Joseph, Mecklinburgh, 41; Joseph H., Beaufort, 8; Major, New-Hanover, 4; Samuel, Beaufort, 8; Susannah, 53
 Clarke, Alexander, 73; Jos., Salisbury, 42
 Clary, Daniel, Salisbury, 42
 Clay, Samuel, Granville, 42
 Clayton, Lambert, Iredell, 28
 Clement, Thos., Esq., Salem, 41
 Clements, William, Windsor, 13; Mr. William, merchant, Tarborough, 49
 Cleveland, Robert, Wilkes, 38; Mrs. Sarah, Wilkes, 38
 Clifton, Peter, Edenton Dist., 44
 Clinch, D. L., 35
 Clitherall, John, Esq., Newbern, 48
 Coakley, Henry, Newbern, 42
 Coart, Iohn, Newbern, 42; Mr. John, Pitt, 49
 Cobb, Archibald, 26; Eaton, Edgecombe, 8; John, Edgecombe, 8; Ollen, Edgecombe, 8
 Cochran, John, 73; Robert, 72; Robert, Fayetteville, 22, 42
 Cocke, William, Granville, 42; William, Esq., Att. at Law, Washington Co., 51
 Cockran, Abraham, Montgomery, 4
 Coffee, Elijah, Wilks, 56; Jesse, Ashe, 56; John, Wilks, 56; Reuben, Burke, 56; Smith, Burke, 56
 Coffield, Benjamin, Chowan, 51; David, Bertie, 13
 Cogdell, Richard, Esq., Newbern, 32; Col. Richard, Newbern, 48

- Cogdill, Richard, Esq., Newbern, 9
 Coleman, Charles, Edgecombe, 4; J. C., 35; James, Anson, 52; John, Guilford, 4
 Collins, Andrew, Bertie, 13; Joseph, esq., Edenton, 28; Josiah, Edenton, 42; Capt. Josiah, Edenton, 51; Thomas, Bertie, 28; Zelotes, Grenville, 61
 Conean, D., Charlotte, 42
 Congleton, John, Esq., Salem, 41
 Connelly, Cyrus P., Burke, 19; W., Halifax, 42
 Conner, George A. L., Edenton, 42; George A. L., Pasquotank, 52
 Connor, Demsey, Edenton Dist., 44; James, Iredell, 28
 Conway, Capt. Peter, Newbern, 48; W., Newbern, 42
 Cook, Jacob, Newbern, 42
 Cooke, John, Center, 41; Silas, Esq., Clerk of the Superior Court of Law for the District of Newbern, 44
 Coor, Mr. James, Newbern, 32, 48
 Copeland, Josiah, Edenton Dist., 44
 Corbin, Francis, Esq., one of the Assistant Justices of the Superior Court, 48; William, 65
 Cornell, Samuel, Esq., Newbern, 48; The Honourable Samuel, Esq., Newbern, 9
 Corney, Josiah, Pitt, 42
 Corpenning, Abraham, Burke, 19; Albert, Burke, 19
 Corpew, Malachi, Washington, 8
 Corrie, John, 53
 Cotten, Godwin, Hertford, 13; Randolph, Edgecombe, 8; Robert, Warren, 44
 Cottle, William, Northampton, 13
 Cotton, James, Esq., late of North Carolina, 60
 Council, Mr. James, Bladen, 28
 Cousins, John, Beaufort, 8
 Cowan, David, Charlotte, 22, 52; Thomas L., 26; Thomas L., Salisbury, 46
 Cowper, R., 35
 Cox, David, Burke, 19; George, Bertie, 13
 Craig, Archibald C., 1; John, Hillsboro, 42; William B., Burke, 19
 Crawford, C. D., Durham Creek, 42; David, 26; James, jun., 26; Moses, 53; Thomas, sen., 26
 Cray, William, Esq., Clerk, Onslow, 44; William, Esq., Clerk of Onslow Inferior Court, 9
 Crecy, Lemuel, esq., Edenton, 28
 Creecy, Lemuel, Chowan, 42; Lemuel, Esq., Chowan, 51; Lemuel, Edenton Dist., 44; Nathan, Chowan, 51; William, Esq., Perquimans, 51
 Cress, Daniel, Esq., 26; Daniel, Salisbury, 42
 Cridle, Daniel, Hyde, 8
 Crisp, Whitley, Edgecombe, 8
 Croan, William, Newbern, 42

Crokell, Robert, Mecklinburgh, 41
 Croom, Joshua, Esq., J.P., Dobbs, 44; Rd, Newbern, 42
 Cross, Jesse R., Northampton, 13
 Crowell, William, Beaufort, 8;
 Crump, Josias, Halifax, 42
 Crutch, William, Bertie, 13
 Cullen, Pollok, esq., Edenton, 28
 Culpeper, J., Anson, 52; J., Montgomery, 4
 Culpepper, John, Anson, 56; William, Beaufort, 8
 Cumberland, Farquhar, Cumberland, 42
 Cumming, Wm., Esq., Att. at Law, Edenton, 51
 Cummings, John, 73; Samuel, 73
 Cunningham, A., Person, 42; John, 73
 Currie, Ezekiel, 73; Rev. Ezekiel B., Granville, 39
 Curry, Rev. Ezekiel B., 41
 Curtis, Joseph, Burke, 19; Thomas, Craven, 44
 Cutchin, Norfleet, Edgecombe, 8
 Cutreall, William, Hyde, 8

D

Dance, Henry, 8
 Dancy, F. L., Tarboro, 42; Francis L., Tarborough, 52
 Daney, William, Edgecombe, 4
 Daniel, Alexr. O., 35; B. W., Raleigh, 46; Benjamin, Montgomery, 4; David, Edgcomb, 51; J. N., 35; J. P., Edgecombe, 8; James, Caswell, 63; Mr. James, Johnston, 48; John, 53; John, Caswell, 63; John H., Edgecombe, 8; Joseph, 53; Josiah, Pitt, 8; Reuben, 53; Stephen, Esq., J.P., Brunswick, 50; William A., 35; Woodson, Granville, 42
 Daniels, Josiah, Carteret, 8; Randolph, Carteret, 8
 Darden, Jethro, Hertford, 13
 Daughtrey, Lawrence, Northampton, 13
 Davenport, William, Wilkes, 38; Maj. Wm., Wilks, 56
 Daves, John, Esq., J.P., Craven, 44; John, Esq., Collector of the Revenue of the United States, Newbern, 50; John, Esq., Collector of the port of Newbern, 51
 Davidson, Eph. B., Charlotte, 41; Major Ephraim, Center, 41; George, Salisbury, 51; George, jun., Center, 41; Captain George L., Center, 41; George Lee, Esq., 26; John, Mecklinburgh, 41; Joseph, 26; Robert, Edenton Dist., 44; Robert, Esq., 26; W., Charlotte, 42; William, Esq., Burke, 51
 Davie, W. R., Halifax, 42; W. R., Esq., Att. at Law, Halifax, 51; William R., Esq., Counsellor at Law, Halifax, 50
 Davis, A. J., *see* Davis, S. & A. J.; Archd., Franklin, 42; Benjamin, Duplin, 4; Duke W., Franklin, 52; Elizabeth, Martin, 8; George, Wilmington, 43, 52; George, Esq., Wilmington, 51; George, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Brunswick, 50; Henry, Jr., Beaufort, 8; Henry L., Beaufort, 8; Isham, Halifax, 13; Mr. James, Printer, New-

- bern, 67; John, Carteret, 8; John, Wake, 52; John L., Burke, 19; John R., Beaufort, 8; Jonathan, 53; P. R., Warrenton, 42; Richard, Beaufort, 8; S. & A. J., Lincoln, 42; Solomon, Rowan, 4; Thomas, Fayetteville, 52; Thomas, Fayette [District?], 42; Thomas, Wilks, 56; Thomas F., Wilmington, 42; William, 73; William H., 35
- Davison, R., Warrenton, 42
- Dawson, Frederick, Randolph, 52; William J., 64; William J., N. C. Representative, 24; Wm. J., Edenton, 43
- Day, Thomas, Carteret, 8
- Deacon, Elias, Montgomery, 4
- Dean, Jesse, Beaufort, 8; Joseph, Wilmington, 57; Thomas, 4
- Deane, Gaius, Halifax, 42
- Deans, Thomas, Hertford, 13; William, Northampton, 13
- Dear, Reuben, Guilford, 4
- Deavenport, James, Washington, 8
- De Beard, Lewis, Salisbury, 42; *see also* Beard
- Deberry, Lemuel, Pitt, 13
- Dekeyser, Lee, Fayetteville, 28
- Denny, James, 73; William, Guilford, 73
- Dermosdy, Mr. William, Schoolmaster, Edenton, 37
- De Rosset, A. F., 5; A. J., Wilmington, 42
- Devany, Major J., 53
- Devayne, John, 5
- Devereaux, John, Newbern, 42
- Devereux, John, 72; John, Merchant, Newbern, 51
- Dew, Mr. Joseph, Newbern, 32
- Deweese, Garret, Esq., Buncomb, 4
- Dewer, John & Edward Dunston, Bertie, 13
- Dewest, Hezekiah, Mecklinburgh, 41
- Dewey, Iohn, Newbern, 42; Thomas W., 35
- Deyer, F. O., Murfreesboro', 42
- Dialectic Society, Chapel Hill, 39
- Dialectic Society, University, N. Carolina, 41
- Dick, James, 73; James, Alleman, 54; Obadiah, Guilford C.H., 42; Thomas, Guilford C.H., 42; William, 72, 73
- Dicken, Ben, Edgecombe, 8; L. B. K., Halifax, 8
- Dickens & Lyons, Edgecombe, 4
- Dickenson, David, Northampton, 13; Joel, Washington, 42
- Dickerson, William, Northampton, 13
- Dickey, David, Esq., Rutherford, 51
- Dickinson, J., Grenville, 61; Doc. Samuel, Edenton, 37
- Dickson, Robert, Onslow, 52; Samuel B., Anson, 52; William, Burke, 19; William, Esq., Duplin, 9
- Diction, Wm., Esq., Burke, 56
- Dicky, Capt. John, Center, 41; Samuel, Center, 41
- Diggs, Starling, Edgecomb, 42
- Dinkens, John, 53
- Dismucks, Geo., Esq., 4

Dixon, Capt. Charles, 53; Edward, Person, 42; James, 53
 Dobbins, Drury, Rutherford, 4, 56
 Dobson, Joseph, Burke, 19
 Dodd, David, Sampson, 42
 Dond, Cornelius, Esq., Moore, 4
 Donnel, Daniel, 73
 Donnell, John, Guilford C.H., 42; Robert, 73
 Donoho, Edward, Caswell C.H., 42; T. A., 35; Major Thomas, 53
 Dorsey, Robert, Wilmington, 42
 Douglas, James, Anson, 52; Joseph, Esq., Mecklinburgh, 41
 Douglass, Benjamin, 53; John, 53
 Downes, Nathan, Camden, 42; Nathaniel, Washington, 45
 Downs, Mitchell, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44
 Dowse, Dr. Joseph, Newbern, 32
 Doyle, James, Rutherford, 4
 Drake, J. H., Nash, 8
 Drew, Allen, Halifax, 8; Dolphin, Bertie, 42; John, Esq., Att. at Law, Salisbury, 51; Capt. John, Dobbs, 48; William, Halifax, 42
 Driver, John, Edenton Dist., 44; John, Hertford, 51
 Dubrutz, Gabriel, Fayetteville, 28
 Dudley, C., Wilmington, 42; Gilford, Fayetteville, 28
 Duffy, George, Esq., Att. at Law, Newbern, 51; George, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Carteret, 50; W., Fayette [District?], 42; William, Fayetteville, 52; William, Esq., Attorney at Law, Newbern, 50; William, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Hillsborough, 49
 Duguid, Alexander, 5; Mr. Thomas, Windsor, 14
 Duke, Green, 53; Lewis P., Warrenton, 45; William, 53; William J., 35
 Dunning, William, Edenton Dist., 44
 Duncan, G., Wilmington, 42; *see also* Hale & Duncan
 Dunlap, David R., Anson, 52
 Dunn, Major John, Salisbury County, 9; Stephen W., Craven, 50
 Dunston, Edward & John Dewer, Bertie, 13
 Dupre, Lewis, Esq., Wilmington, 51
 Dupree, Jesse, Halifax, 51; Stephen, 41; Thomas, Pitt, 8
 Dusenbery, H. M., 35
 Dwyer, Patrick, Halifax, 51
 Dye, Martin, 53
 Dysart, James S., Burke, 19

E

Eagles, R. T., Edgecombe, 8; Richard, 72
 Earl, Rev. Daniel, Rector of St. Paul's Parish, Chowan, 37; Col. John, Rutherford, 51
 Earle, Samuel, member of congress for North Carolina, 27
 Eason, Demsey S., Pitt, 8; Nancy, Pitt, 8
 Eaton, Charles R., Granville, 42; Charles R., Esq., Granville, 51; John, Halifax, 42; John, Granville, 39; John, Esq., Halifax, 51; John R., Granville, 42, 45; Thomas B., Warrenton, 45

Eccles, Gilbert, Cumberland, 28; Iohn, Fayette [District?], 42
 Eckels, Wm., 53
 Edmunds, Howell, Esq., Northampton, 51
 Edwards, Daniel, Surry, 52; Isaac, Esq., 9; Isham, Person, 42; J.,
 Granville, 42; John, Northampton, 13; Mr. Thomas, Dobbs, 48
 Eelbeck, Montfort, Esq., Halifax, 48
 Egan, Robert, Edenton, 51
 Ellinor, James, Edgecombe, 8; Josiah, Edgecombe, 8
 Elliot, Mr. Benjamin, Hertford Town, 37
 Ellis, E. H., Edgecombe, 8; Edmond, St. Luke's Parish,³⁵ 39;
 George, Newbern, 42; George, Esq., one of the Commissioners of
 the town of Newbern, 50; James, Esq., Clerk and Master in Equity
 for the District of Newbern, 50, 51; Jonathan, Edgecombe, 8;
 Mr. Richard, Newbern, 48
 Ellison, Thomas, Burke, 19; Thomas, Washington, 42
 Emery, Mr. Thomas T., Newbern, 32
 Empie, Reverend A[dam], of Newyork, 72³⁶
 England, Elisha, Burke, 19; Enoch, Burke, 19; William, Esq., Fay-
 etteville, 28
 English, Bryan, Hyde, 8
 Engs, Madett, merchant, Edenton, 51
 Epps, Richard, Halifax, 42
 Erichson, Severin, merchant, Wilmington, 51
 Erwin, A. H., Burke, 19; A. L., Burke, 19; E. J., Burke, 19; Elam
 A., Burke, 19; James, Burke, 19; Stanhope, Burke, 19; W. A.,
 Burke, 19; W. W., Burke, 19
 Estes, Eliza, Hillsboro, 42
 Etheridge, James, Currituck, 13; Thomas, Sen., Camden, 13; Willis,
 Edenton Dist., 44
 Euen, Mr. William, Newbern, 48
 Evans, Mr. Richard, Beaufort, 48
 Everet, John, Rockingham, 4
 Everett, R., Wilmington, 42; Silas, Edgecombe, 8
 Everitt, James G., Beaufort, 8; Miles, Beaufort, 6
 Ewing, Adlai, 26; Alexander, 73
 Eyerly, Jacob, Jun., Nazareth, 62

F

Faccult, David, Orange, 41
 Faddis, John, Hillsboro, 42
 Fairis, James, Charlotte, 42
 Faison, Solomon J., 35; William A., 35
 Falconer, A., Lewisburg, 42; Alexander, Franklin, 52; Thomas, M.D.,
 Raleigh, 46
 Falkener, Wm., 53

³⁵ St. Luke's Parish is in Salisbury.

³⁶ The University of North Carolina Library now has the Rev. Mr. Empie's copy of this book.

Fall, John S., 73
 Farbe, P. A., Fayetteville, 58³⁷
 Farmar, Edwin, Halifax, 42
 Farmer, James, Bertie, 13; William, Bertie, 13
 Farrell, L. C., 35
 Farrington, Samuel, Rowan, 4; Solomon, Rowan, 4
 Farris, W. S., Harold, 42; William, Esq., of Stanton-Harrold, in Beaufort, 49
 Fasley, Francis, Charlotte, 22
 Fasset, David, 73
 Fatham, Charles, Fayetteville, 28
 Faucett, Richard, 53
 Faulcon, Jesse N., Ransom's Bridge, 52; John, Warren, 42; John, Esq., Warren, 51
 Faulkener, W. A. K., Warrenton, 42; William, Warrenton, 51
 Fauner, Joseph, Tarboro, 42
 Feinshall, George, Lewisburg, 42
 Fellow, Mr. Robert, Dobbs, 48
 Fenner, Richard, Lewisburg, 42; Robert, Warren, 42; Mr. William, Newbern, 32
 Fenno, Samuel, merchant, Fayetteville, 28
 Ferebee, S., Currituck, 52
 Fergus, Dr. James, Wilmington, 50, 51
 Ferguson, Alexander, Fayetteville, 28; Dr. Walter, Halifax, 48
 Ferrand, S. L., 26; Stephen L., M.D., Salisbury, 46
 Ferree, F. E., Currituck, 42; Joseph, Edenton Dist., 44; Samuel, Edenton Dist., 44; William, Edenton Dist., 44
 Ferrell, Isaac, Burke, 19
 Figures, M., 27; Richard, Hertford, 13
 Finley, George, 73; John, Wilkesborough, 38
 Finney, Thomas, Murfreesboro', 42
 Fister, Charles, Salisbury, 46
 Fitt & Garvey, merchants, Murfreesboro', 51
 Fitts, Henry, jun., Warren, 42; Oliver, Warrenton, 52
 Fitzgerald, J., Surry, 52
 Fitzsimmons, James, Salisbury, 46
 Fleming, Abraham, Burke, 19; Andrew, Halifax, 42; Willis, Pitt, 8
 Flinn, Andrew, 73; Andrew, Fayette [District?], 42; Rev. Andrew, Fayetteville, 22; Rev. Andrew, Orange, 41; Joseph, Charlotte, 22
 Flury, Henry, Edenton, 42
 Fly, Enoch, Hertford, 13
 Fodry, Hugh H., Hyde, 8
 Fogarthie, Thomas, Wilmington, 42
 Folks, Benjamin, Bertie, 13

³⁷ This is perhaps an error for Tarbe. The 1790 Census lists a [firm?] Perry & Tarbe. *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790, North Carolina* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), 41, hereinafter cited *First Census, 1790*. One Peter Tarbé of Fayetteville is mentioned in an advertisement in the *Fayetteville Gazette*, October 12, 1789.

Ford, John, Lumberton, 42
 Fork, Elizabeth, Edgecombe, 4
 Forney, Jacob, Burke, 19; P. M., Lincoln, 55
 Forrest, William, Caswell, 41
 Forster, Alexius Mador, Esq., Wilmington, 51
 Forsythe, John, Esq., 26
 Fortune, Richard, Burke, 19
 Foster, Arthur, Hertford, 13; J., Lewisburg, 42
 Fowler, Mr. John, Newbern, 32; Stephen, Newbern, 42; Wm. H., Raleigh, 46
 Foy, Frederick, Craven, 44, 50; Foy, Newbern, 42; Frederick, jun., Newbern, 42
 Franklin, Isaiah, Burke, 19; Jesse, 64; Jesse, Senator, 57; Jesse, M.C. from Surry, 74
 Franks, Mr. Edward, Craven, 48; John, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44, 50
 Frazer, James, Mecklinburgh, 41
 Freear, Revd. W., Northampton, 42
 Freeman, Andrew, Granville, 42; Carney, Bertie, 13; Charles, Bertie, 13; Jacob, Bertie, 13; James, Bertie, 13; Jeremiah, Bertie, 13; Jesse, Bertie, 13; Jonathan Otis, Raleigh, 46; Joshua, Bertie, 13; Josiah, Edgecombe, 8; William, Bertie, 13; Wm. D., Salisbury, 46
 Freshwater, Thaddeus, Pasquotank, 51; Thaddus, Edenton Dist., 44
 Frew, Archibald, P.M., Charlotte, 22
 Frohock, Alexander, Salisbury, 52
 Fulsher, Levi, Craven, 44
 Fulton, John, Salisbury, 42, 46; Samuel, Washington Co., 42
 Futtrell, John, Northampton, 13; Shadrach, Northampton, 13; Thomas, Northampton, 13

G

Gabie, John M., Wilmington, 42
 Gales, Joseph, Raleigh, 42
 Gallent, D., Charlotte, 42
 Gallier, James, Jr., 35
 Gallion, Thomas, Burke, 19
 Gandy, Edward, Nash, 51
 Garborough, Edward, Center, 41
 Gardiner, G. A., Newbern, 42
 Gardner, George, Newbern, 42; John, Mecklinburgh, 41
 Garey, George, Warrenton, 42
 Garkins, Benj., Hyde, 8
 Garret, Jacob, Bertie, 13
 Garrett, Henry W., Edgecombe, 8; John, Edgecombe, 8
 Garvey, Patrick, Edenton Dist., 44; *see also* Fitt & Garvey
 Gary, Mary, 11
 Gaskill, Cory, Hyde, 8
 Gaskol, Noah, Beaufort, 8
 Gasten, William, Newbern, 42

- Gaston, Dr. Alexander, Newbern, 32; William, 72; William, Newbern, 52
- Gatewood, Thos., Caswell, 63; Thomas, Milton, 42
- Gatlin, Pat., Hertford, 13; Thos. D., Edgecombe, 8
- Gauteir, J. N., Wilmington, 42
- Gautier, I. R., Bladen, 28; Gautier & Richardson, 5
- Gay, Eaton, Nash, 8; Ely, Pitt, 8; Jonathan, Northampton, 13
- Gee, James, 8
- Gellespy, George, Center, 41
- George, James, Edgecombe, 8; Mareus, Warrenton, 42
- Geren, Abraham, Randolph, 52
- Gibbes, Mr. William, Newbern, 49
- Gibbs, William, Craven, 44
- Gibson, James, 73
- Gilbreath, William, Wilkes, 38
- Giles, John, Salisbury, 46
- Gilford, Isaac, Edenton Dist., 44
- Gill, Thomas, 13; William, Granville, 42
- Gillam, Moses, Bertie, 13
- Gillaspie, Daniel, Guilford C.H., 42; J. S., 73; John, 73
- Gilleland, John, Mecklinburgh, 41
- Gillespie, B. C., Newbern, 42; James, N. C. Representative, 24; Col. James, Goldengrove, 58
- Gilliam, Capt. William, 53
- Gilmore, Stephen, Fayetteville, 28; W. C., Halifax, 42
- Gilmour, William, Esq., Halifax, 51
- Glasgow, Mr. James, Newbern, 32; James, Esq., Attorney at Law, Dobb's, 9; The Honorable James, Esq., Secretary of State, 44; Hon. James, Esq., Secretary of State, Glasgow, 50
- Gleeson, M., Washington, 42
- Glendenning, Rev. Wm., 6
- Glendinning, Rev. William, 1
- Gloster, T. B., Warrenton, 42
- Glover, John, Edgecombe, 8
- Goach, Joseph, 53
- Godwin, Thomas, Halifax, 8
- Goforth, Ezekiel, Buncomb, 4
- Gold, Daniel, Anson, 4
- Goneke, John F., Raleigh, 46
- Good, William, Newbern, 42; William, Esq., Newbern, 51
- Gooding, John, Craven, 44
- Goodman, Henry, Esq., Dobbs, 48; Jethro D., Edenton, 52
- Goodrich, James, Anson, 52; John B., Montgomery C.H., 55
- Goodwin, Samuel, Fayette [District?], 42; Wright, Carteret, 8
- Gordon, Mr. David, Attorney at Law, Dobbs, 48; G., Winton, 42; George, 26; John, Wilkes, 38
- Gorham, G., Beaufort, 8; John C., Pitt, 8; William, Newbern, 42
- Gornto, John, Onslow, 4, 13

- Grady, John, Anson, 4
 Gragg, John, Esq., Burke, 56
 Graham, Edward, Newbern, 52; Edward, Esq., Att. at Law, Newbern, 51; Edward, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Newbern, 50; George, Esq., Salisbury, 51; Maj. Joseph, 6; Joseph, Esq., Salisbury, 51; William, Esq., Mecklenburg, 44
 Graidles, Redden, Beaufort, 8
 Granberry, James, Edenton, 28
 Granbery, William, Northampton, 51
 Grandy, Caleb, Edenton Dist., 44; Charles, Edenton Dist., 44
 Grant, James, Hillsborough, 28
 Grave, W. B., Fayette [District?], 42
 Graves, Augustus, 35; Azariah, Casewell C.H., 42; Barzillai, Caswell, 4; Dr. David, Granville, 45; Capt. John, Granville, 45; Capt. Ralph, Granville, 45; Solomon, Casewell C.H., 42
 Gray, Alexander, Randolph, 52; Etheldred, Edgecombe, 8; Henry, Student at Law, Johnston, 50; Henry, Esq., High Sheriff, Johnston, 49; John A., Halifax, 42; John, Edenton Dist., 44; Joseph, Edenton Dist., 44; Thomas, Esq., Newbern, 32; Thomas, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Johnston, 49, 50; Thos. W. Halifax, 8; William, Martin, 8
 Greaves, Hen., 53
 Green, James, Jones, 42; James, jun., Esq., Clerk of Assembly, Newbern, 9; James S., 35; John, 53; Mr. John, Edenton, 37; Mr. John, Newbern, 32; Malachi, Martin, 8; So., Warrenton, 51; Solomon, Warren, 42; Tho., 53; Wm., 53; William, Esq., Wilmington, 50; William H., Bertie, 13; William M., 35
 Greenlee, E. M., Burke, 19; Jno. M., Burke, 19; William, Burke, 19
 Greer, Ann, 53; Thomas, Charlotte, 42
 Gregory, Alexander, esq., Cumberland, 28; Isaac, Edenton Dist., 44; W., Camden, 42; William, Washington, 45
 Greigg, William, 73
 Grenade, John A., Jones, 50
 Grey, Thomas, Esq., Attorney at Law, Duplin, 9
 Grier, Charles, Pasquotank, 42
 Griew, Thomas, Charlotte, 22
 Griffin, Lanear, Pitt, 8; Matthew, Martin, 8
 Griffith, Edward, Newbern, 42
 Grist, Frederick, Washington, 42
 Grogan, John, Guilford C.H., 42
 Grove, W. B., Fayetteville, 43; Hon. W. B., Esq., one of the Representatives from this state in the Congress of the U. S. for Cape-Fear division, 51; William B., 64; William B., Member House of Representatives, 57; William B., esq., M.C. from North Carolina, 58; William Barre, esq., Fayetteville, 28; William Barry, M.C. from North Carolina, 74; William Barry, N. C. Representative, 24
 Groves, W. B., Esq., Hon. Member of the House of Representatives

of the United States, Fayetteville, 50; William, Esq., J.P., Beaufort, 44
 Guion, Isaac, Esq., Newbern, 51; Mr. Isaac, Newbern, 32; Isaac, Esq., J.P., Craven, 44; Isaac, Esq., J.P., Newbern, 50; Isaac L., Newbern, 52; James Lee, Newbern, 42; Lewis, Hertford, 13; Thomas, Edgecombe, 4; Thomas, Tarborough, 13
 Gullledge, Joel, Anson, 4
 Gums, Nathan, Northampton, 13
 Guthery, James, 53
 Guthrie, German, Chatham, 52; I. W., Washington, 42; J. W., Washington, 22

H

Haborn, John, Beaufort, 8
 Hackett, James, Wilkes, 38
 Hadden, John, Wilmington, 42
 Haislep, John, Martin, 8
 Halcomb, G. D., Surry, 52
 Hale & Duncan, Washington, 42
 Hall, Almond, 58; E. W., 35; Edward, Esq., Clerk, Edgcomb, 51; Edward, Greenville, 52; Edward, Tarboro, 42; Everard, Washington, 45; Hugh, 73; James, Esq., Edgcomb, 48; Rev. James, 2; Rev. James, Iredell, 73; John, Granville, 42 [name appears twice]; John, Esq., New-Hanover, 51; John, Warren, 52; John, Warrenton, 42; S., Newbern, 42; Thomas, 73; Thomas, Halifax, 42; Thomas, Washington, 22; Thomas C., 35; Thomas H., Esq., Att. at Law, Pitt, 51; Thomas H., Esq., Counsellor at Law, Pitt, 50; Rev. Thomas J., 73; William, Esq., Clerk, Nash, 51; William, Northampton, 51; William P., Halifax, 41
 Halliday, Robert, Fayette [District?], 42
 Halling, S., Wilmington, 42; Dr. Solomon, Craven, 44
 Halsey, James, Edenton, 28
 Hamilton, H., 73; James, Wilmington, 42; John, Edenton Dist., 44; John, Esq., Att. at Law, Edenton, 51; John, Guilford, 52; John, Guilford C.H., 42; Joseph, Esq., Greene, 51; William, Edington, 41
 Hampton, William, Center, 41
 Hanna, Robert, jun., 73
 Hannon, Iohn, Halifax, 42
 Hanraham, Walter, Washington, 22; W., jun., Washington, 22
 Haralson, Hearndon, Esq., 53; W., Person, 42
 Hareklin, Andrew, Hyde, 8
 Hardison, Hance, Beaufort, 8; John, Esq., Tyrrel, 48
 Hardy, B., Bertie, 13; Benjamin, Esq., Johnston, 48; Mr. Benjamin, Johnston, 48; Jordan, Edgecombe, 8; Miles, Washington, 42; Robert, student at law, Warrenton, 51
 Hare, Thomas E., Bertie, 13
 Harget, F., Newbern, 42

- Hargett, Daniel, Esq., J.P., Jones, 50; Frederick, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44, 50; Peter, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44
- Harney, Selby, Edenton Dist., 44
- Harper, David, 8; Jesse, Randolph, 52
- Harrahan, W., Washington, 42; Walter, Washington, 42
- Harrell, Amos, Martin, 13; Cathedal, Edgecombe, 8; Henry, Bertie, 13; John, Hertford, 13; Lemuel, Bertie, 13; Nathan, Edenton Dist., 44
- Harrill, Samuel, Edenton Dist., 44
- Harris, C., Newbern, 42; Cason, Hyde, 8; Charles, Charlotte, 42; Dr. Charles, 26; Edward, Newbern, 52; Edward, Esq., Att. at Law, Newbern, 51; Elijah, Mecklinburgh, 41; Ezekiel, Hyde, 8; Geo, Beaufort, 8; James, Charlotte, 22; Jonathan, Charlotte, 22; Josiah, Hyde, 8; Robert, Esq., Mecklinburgh, 41; Samuel, Mecklinburgh, 41; Major Thomas, Mecklinburgh, 41; Zabez K., Hyde, 8
- Harrison, Henry, Franklin, 42; Isham, 53; Richard, Edgecombe, 8
- Harriss, James, Halifax, 42
- Harroll, Samuel, Esq., Bertie, 51
- Harshaw, Joshua, Burke, 19; Moses, Burke, 19
- Hart, Andrew, 26; Capt. James, 26
- Harte, Thomas, Esq., Newbern, 32
- Harvey, Edmond B., 41; John, Perquiman, 42; Col. John, Speaker of the Assembly of North Carolina, Perqueman's, 37; Joseph, Granville, 42; Mr. Thomas, Newbern, 32
- Hasell, Hon. James, President of the Council, Newbern, 32
- Hasle, James, 67
- Haslen, Thomas, Esq., Newbern, 32
- Haslin, Dr. Thomas, Newbern, 48
- Hassel, William, 72
- Hassell, C. B., Martin, 8; Jesse, Chowan, 13
- Haste, Samuel, Bertie, 13
- Hatch, Durand, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44; Edmond, Newbern, 42; Edmund, 73; Joseph, Jones, 44, 50; Lemuel, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44
- Hathaway, James, Edenton, 42; Capt. James, Edenton, 51
- Hattridge, Robert, Beaufort, 44
- Hawkins, Benjamin, Senator, 3, 24, 40, 69, 71; Hon. Benjamin, Esq., Senator of the United States, Warren, 50; Hon. Benjamin, Esq., one of the members of the Senate of the U. S. for this state, 51; Benjamin F.,³⁸ 41; J. W., Chapel Hill, 42; John D., Franklin, 52; Joseph, Warrenton, 42 [name appears twice]; Joshua W., 41; Philemon, Warren, 44; Mr. Pinkithman, Johnston, 48
- Hawks, F., Newbern, 42; Francis, Esq., Secretary to the Governor, Newbern, 49; John, Esq., Newbern, Clerk of the Council, 32
- Hawley, Isaac, Fayetteville, 28
- Hay, John, Fayetteville, 42, 43, 52; John, Esq., Att. at Law, Fayetteville, 51; John, L.L.D., Fayetteville, 22

³⁸ Apparently the middle initial "I" was printed but corrected by hand in ink to read "F."

- Hayes, George, Wilmington, 42; Kinchin, Northampton, 13
Hayman, Thomas, Edenton Dist., 44
Haynes, Eaton, Esq., Clerk, Northampton, 51; James, Center, 41;
John, Center, 41; Joseph, Center, 41
Hays, David, Burke, 19; Jesse, Edgecombe, 8
Haywood, E. Burke, 35; John, Franklin, 52; John, Raleigh, 42, 46,
52; John, Esquire, Public Treasurer, 44; John, Esq., Public
Treasurer, Hillsborough, 49, 50, 51; John, Esq., Solicitor-General,
Halifax; S., Raleigh, 42; Sherwood, Raleigh, 52; Sherwood, Esq.,
Clerk of the Senate, Tarboro, 49
Hazelle, Mrs. Elizabeth, Hillsborough, 39
Hearn, Michael, Tarboro, 42
Hearne, Joseph, Johnston, 52
Heathcock, Burrell, Martin, 8
Hegerty, Patrick, Gates, 45
Heindon, Joseph, Wilkes, 28
Henderson, A. S., Fayetteville, 42; Archibald, Salisbury, 52; Jas M.,
M.D., Fayetteville, 46; John, Salisbury, 52; L., Williamsboro', 42;
Leonard, Williamsborough, 52; R., Hillsboro, 42; R., Salisbury,
42; Richard, 41; Thomas, Charlotte, 42
Hendrickson, C. R., Pastor Baptist church, Elizabeth city, and editor
Baptist Messenger, 12
Henly, Joseph, Edenton Dist., 44
Henry, Joel, Carteret, 44; Joseph, Esq., Sheriff, Lincoln, 51; William,
Esq., J.P., Craven, 50
Herring, James J., 35
Herrington, J. D., Pitt, 8
Herriot, John W., 72
Herritage, John, Esq., Dobbs, 51; John B., Jones, 50
Hewes, Jos., 31; Mr. Joseph, Edenton, 48
Heyward, Josias, Newbern, 42
Hicks, Berryman, Rutherford, 4; Berry Mon, Rutherford, 56; Ed-
ward H., 35; James W., 35; Lewis, Esq., J.P., Onslow, 44
Higgs, Jacob, 4; Joseph, Halifax, 8; Sarah, Halifax, 8; Willie,
Halifax, 8
Highsmith, James, Pitt, 8
Hightower, Robert, Franklin, 42
Hill, Abraham, 73; Mrs. Ann, Hillsborough, 39; Colonel Benjamin,
Bertie, 67; C., 41; Charles A., Franklin, 52; Francis, Esq., Att.
at Law, Halifax, 51; Green, Lewisburg, 42; Green, Esq., North-
ampton, 48; Green, jun., Franklin, 52; James J., Franklin, 52;
John, Edenton Dist., 44; John, Wilmington, 42; Jordan, Lewis-
burg, 42; Joseph B., Martin, 51; N., Wilmington, 42; Doctor N.,
58; Thomas, 58; Thomas, Wilmington, 42; W. H., Wilmington,
42, 43; William, Hertford, 13; William, Esq., Attorney of the
U. S. for the district of North-Carolina, 51; William, Esq., At-
torney of the United States for the North Carolina District,
Wilmington, 50; William H., Member House of Representatives, 57

- Hilliard, I., Halifax, 42; R[obert] C. T. S[ydenham], 35
 Hillyard, W., Granville, 42
 Hines, G. O., 35; Lewis, Nash, 8; Peter, Edgecombe, 8
 Hinson, John, Anson, 52
 Hinton, William, Wake, 52
 Hinton, William S., Pasquotank, 52
 Hiram Lodge, 5
 Hodge, A., Halifax, 42; John, 53; Joseph, 53, 73; Philemon, Cumberland, 28; Robert, 73; Robert, Lumberton, 42; Rev. William, 73; Hodge & Wills, Edenton Dist., 44; Hodge & Wills, Messrs., printers, 28
 Hodges, James, Beaufort, 8; John, Beaufort, 8
 Hogg, John, Fayette [District?], 42; James, esq., Hillsborough, 28; Mr. Robert, Wilmington, 32; William, 1
 Holcombe, Hosea, Lincoln, 56
 Holland, James, M.C. from North Carolina, 74; James, esq., member of congress from N. Carolina, 27; John, Newbern, 42
 Hollerday, Samuel, Pitt, 8
 Holleway, Nathan, 8
 Hollewell, Michael, Beaufort, 8
 Holley, Josiah, Bertie, 13
 Holliday, John, Esq., late High Sheriff of Glasgow, 49; Tho. Newbern, 46
 Hollowell, Joseph, Newbern, 42; S., Newbern, 42
 Holmes, James, Wilmington, 42; L., Newbern, 42; Thomas, Salisbury, 42
 Holt, Isaac, Orange, 52; John, Burke, 19; Dr. William R., Lexington, 18
 Hooker, E. A. Roscoe, 35; H. O. W., 35
 Hooks, Charles, Esq., Duplin, 13
 Hooper, A.M., 58; Archibald, Wilmington, 43; Archibald Maclaine, Wilmington, 52; George, 58; George, Wilmington, 42; Wm., Esq., Att. at Law, Hillsborough, 51
 Hooten, John A., Beaufort, 8
 Hopewell, James, St. Mary's, 42
 Hopkins, Daniel, Edgecombe, 8; George W., Edgecombe, 8; Henry A., Edgecombe, 8; Jarrett, Edgecombe, 8; William D., Edgecombe, 8
 Horn, Jonah, Edgecombe, 4; Joseph, Esq., Bertie, 51
 Horne, Caswell, Edgecombe, 8; Joseph, Bertie, 13; William, jun., Northampton, 13
 Hoskins, Richard, Edenton Dist., 44
 Hostler, Alexander, Wilmington, 42
 Hough, James, Anson, 52
 Houghton, Mr. Joshua, Johnston, 48
 Hounesse, John, Burke, 19
 House, James, Bertie, 4, 13
 Houston, Christ., Iredell, 42; Henry, Mecklinburgh, 41; Capt. James, Center, 41

Hovenden, Mr. Thomas, Merchant, Wilmington, 9
 Howard, Caleb D., 28; H. B., Wilmington, 42; J. H., Washington, 22; John, Granville, 42; Josiah, Onslow, 49; Luke, Hertford, 13; Neely, Wilkes, 38
 Howe, Capt. Thomas Clifford, Newbern, 48
 Howell, Brittain, Edgecombe, 8; Irvin, Edgecombe, 8; Joseph, Esq., Edgcomb, 48; Levi, Martin, 8
 Howerton, Wm. H., 35
 Howze, Isaac, Franklin, 42
 Hoyle, Peter, Lincoln, 19
 Huderson, Mr., 41³⁹
 Hudson, Elijah, Hyde, 8; John, Tarboro, 42
 Huggins, Alexander, 26; John, Esq., Center, 41; Robert, Center, 41
 Hughes, Iohn, Newbern, 42
 Hull, James H., 73
 Hulme, William, Wilkes, 38; Wm., Esq., Wilks, 56
 Hume, Alexander, Esq., "of Carolina," 17⁴⁰
 Hunley, Richard, Craven, 44; Capt. Richard, Newbern, 51
 Hunt, Mr., Lewisburg, 41; James, 53; John, Esq., Clerk of the House of Commons, Franklin, 50, 51; M., Granville, 42; Memucan, Esq., Newbern, 32; Nathaniel, Franklin, 42; Robert, Craven, 44; Robert, Newbern, 42, 50; Thomas, Granville, 39
 Hunter, Charles L., Caswell, 4; Henry, Williamston, 22; John, Mecklinburgh, 41; John B., Martin, 54; Robert, 53; Thomas, Edenton Dist., 44; Thomas, Esq., Clerk, Martin, 51
 Huron, R., Halifax, 42
 Husk, John, Fayetteville, 22
 Huske, John, Esq., Clerk of Wilmington Superior Court, 51
 Huson, Thomas, Charlotte, 42
 Huston, Amos, Mecklinburgh, 41
 Hyman, Joel, Bertie, 13; Thomas, Newbern, 42

I

Icoby, David, 53
 Ingle, Richard, Granville, 42
 Ingram, Doct. John, Fayetteville, 28
 Iredell, James, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, 64; James, Esq., Collector of the Customs of Port Renoke, Edenton, 37; Hon. James, Esq., one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, 51; James J., 35; Thomas, Esq., Clerk and Master in the court of Equity for the district of Edenton, 51
 Ireland, Grafton, Hertford, 13

³⁹ The name follows Richard Henderson in the list of subscribers and may have been intended for Henderson. "Huderson" could have been the typesetter's reading of a poorly written "Henderson."

⁴⁰ Subscribers are shown as being from South Carolina, but none specifically from North Carolina. Hume, marked as being "of Carolina," may have been from the older of the two Carolinas, North Carolina.

Irving, Thomas P., Newbern, 42; Mr. Thomas Pitt, A.M., Principal of Newbern Academy, 49
 Irwin, Francis & John, 26; James, 26; John, sen., 26; Robert, Esq., Salisbury, 51; William, 26
 Isaacs Levy & Bishop, 57
 Isler, John, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44

J

Jackson, Abner, Washington, 13; Baley, Edenton Dist., 44; Dempsey, Pasquotank, 51; Isaac, Anson, 52; Samuel S., Anson, 4; William, Cumberland, 28
 Jacson, Isaac, Beaufort, 8
 James, John, Esq., J.P., South-Washington, 50
 Jarrett, Daniel, Burke, 19
 Jarvis, A.B., Hyde, 8; Julia, Hyde, 8; Lydia, Hyde, 8; Moses, Newbern, 42; Thomas, Edenton Dist., 44
 Jasmagan, Needham, Edenton Dist., 44
 Jasper, James, Hyde, 50; S., Hyde, 42; William, Esq., J.P., Hyde, 44
 Jefferys, Tho., 53
 Jeffries, Thomas, Casewell C.H., 42
 Jenkins, Abraham, Bertie, 13; Benjamin, 4; Benjamin, Northampton, 13; James, Bertie, 13
 Jennings, Thomas, Wilmington, 42
 Jetton, Elizabeth, Center, 41
 Jocelin, Amaziah, Wilmington, 42; Samuel, Wilmington, 42
 Jocelyn, Samuel R., Wilmington, 43, 52
 Johnson, Charles, Esq., Edenton, 51; Charles, Esq., MHRUS, 21; Jacob, Esq., J.P., Craven, 44; Jacob, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44; James M., 35; John, Wilkes, 38; M., Warrenton, 42; M. Duke, Warrenton, 51; Nathaniel, Thyatira, 41; Philip, Burke, 19; Richard, 41; Robert, Halifax, 42; Samuel, Senator from N. C., 71; Thomas, Esq., J.P., Onslow, 44; William, Salisbury, 51; William, Esq., Granville, 48; William R., Warrenton, 45
 Johnston, Amos, Martin, 8; Catharine, Edgecombe, 8; Charles, 53; D. S., 35; His Excellency Gabriel, Esq., Governor of North Carolina, 67; Henry, Edgecombe, 8; James, 53; James C., Williamston, 52; John, Esq., Attorney at Law, Bertie, 51; John, Edenton Dist., 44; John, Martin, 8; Richard, 53; Hon. Samuel, Esq., one of the members of the Senate of the U. S. for this state, 51; The hon. Samuel, Esq., Senator in Congress, 69; Samuel, Senator, 40; Samuel, Esq., U. S. Senator, 3; T. C., Williamston, 42; Wm., 53; Col. Wm., 53; William, esq., Montgomery, 28; William, Anson, 52; William, Craven, 44; William, Newbern, 42; William, Warren, 44; Johnston & Mitchell, Newbern, 51
 Joiner, Gen. Andw., Halifax, 46; *see also* Joyner
 Jolley, Jesse, Jr., Martin, 8
 Jones, Albrigston, Edgecombe, 4; Allen, Esq., Newbern, 32; Allen, Esq., Northampton, 48; Allen (General), Northampton, 57; Asa,

Newbern, 42; Calvin, Warrenton, 42; Charles, esq., Montgomery, 28; Daniel, Franklin, 42; Edmond, Wilkes, 55; Edmund, Ransom's Bridge, 52; Edward, Esq., 26, 28, 53; Edward, Chatham, 52; Edward, Raleigh, 42; Edward, esq., solicitor-general of North Carolina, 58; Edward, Wilmington, 43; Edward, esq., Attorney at Law, Wilmington, 51; Edward, Esq., Solicitor-General, Wilmington, 49, 50; Evan, Wilmington, 42; Frederick, Edgecombe, 8; Guilford, Esq., Halifax, 13; James, Edgecombe, 8; James, Hertford, 13; John, Bertie, 13; John, Craven, 50; Capt. John, Craven, 49; John, Granville, 42; John, Esq., Halifax, 51; John, Hertford, 13; John, Wilkesborough, 38; Joseph, Camden, 28; Joseph, Edenton Dist., 44; Joseph, Hertford, 13; Matthew, esq., Chatham, 28; Mordecai, 1; R. P., Newbern, 42; Richard, Halifax, 42; Robert, Esq., Attorney-General, 48; Robert H., Warrenton, 52; Thomas, Bertie, 13; Thomas, Esq., Attorney at Law, Edenton, 37; Thomas C., 41; Vinkler, Granville, 52; W. W., Halifax, 42; William H., 35; Willie, 27; Willie, Esq., Halifax, 51
 Jordan, Charles, 58; Jacob, Edenton Dist., 44; James B., Bertie, 13; John, Hyde, 8; John S., Beaufort, 8; Thomas, Edenton Dist., 44; William, Edenton Dist., 44; Zachariah, Robeson, 52
 Joselin, Russel, Esq., Counsellor at Law, New Hanover, 50
 Joyner, Andrew, Halifax, 42; *see also* Joiner; Moses, 8; Whitney, Martin, 8
 Justiss, John, Esq., Halifax, 51

K

Kail, Job, Bertie, 13
 Kea, John, Halifax, 8
 Keais, Nathan, Esq., Collector of the Port of Washington, 51; William, Washington, 22
 Kearle, Wm., 58
 Keaton, Joseph, Edenton Dist., 44
 Keller, Michael, Burke, 19
 Kemp, Zebulon, Tyrrell, 8
 Kenan, Col. Felix, Duplin, 48; James, 5; Owen, Wilmington, 42; Thomas, 5; Thomas H., 5
 Kendall, William, Esq., Montgomery, 4
 Kennady, David, Esq., Moore, 4
 Kennedy, Col. Daniel, Greene, 51; Jacob, Newbern, 42; John, Beaufort, 44; John, Craven, 44; John, merchant, Newbern, 50, 51; John, Washington, 42; William, Esq., Attorney at Law, Halifax, 51; William, Washington, 22, 52
 Kerney, David, 26
 Kerr, Andrew, 26; Henry M., D.D., Salisbury, 46; James, 53; Robert, Mecklinburgh, 41
 Key, John, Fayetteville, 42
 Keys, Dr. James Henry, Hillsborough, 51

Kibler, Jacob, Lincoln, 19; Martin, Burke, 19; Michael, Lincoln, 19
 Killebrew, G. W., Edgecombe, 8
 Kilpatrick, Rev. J. D., 73; Joseph, 73
 Kinchen, John, Esq., Halifax, 51
 Kindred, John J., 35
 King, Coffield, Edgecome, 8; E. C., Newbern, 42; James, 73; John, Anson, 52; Richard, Esq., 73; Samuel, Iredel, 39; Sarah, Edgecombe, 8; Thomas, Thyatira, 41; Wm., 41
 Kirby, Abraham, Currituck, 28
 Kirk, William, Orange, 41
 Kittrell, Isham, Granville, 42
 Knight, C. C., Edgecombe, 8; Gariot, Edgecombe, 8; James, Edgecombe, 8; Jesse C., Edgecombe, 8; Jordan, Edgecombe, 8; Peter E., Edgecombe, 8; Willis, Edgecombe, 8
 Knott, John, Bertie, 13
 Knox, Ambrose, Edenton Dist., 44; Andrew, Esq., Merchant, Hertford Town, 37⁴¹; Andrew, Esq., Newbern, 32; Henry, Edgecombe, 8
 Kollock, Rev. Henry, 6; Rev. Shepard K., Chapel Hill, 39
 Kreuser, Conrad, Salem, 54

L

Lacy, Theophilus, Rockingham, 52
 Ladd, Constantine, 73; Joseph, 73
 La Fartee, Shirley, 26
 Laird, John, 73
 Lake, Rev. Jacob, 53
 Lallersted, E., Fayette [District?], 42
 Laman, Jacob, Lincoln, 42
 Lamb, J., Camden, 52; Luke G., Elizabeth, 46
 Lamkin, P. W., Nash, 8
 Lancashire, John R., Craven, 44
 Lancaster, Henry, Edenton Dist., 44; William, Franklin, 52; William, Lewisburg, 42
 Landers, John, Caswell, 4
 Landreth, Simon, 73
 Lane, Isaac, Halifax, 42; Isaac, Randolph, 52; Joel, Esq., Halifax, 48; John, Edenton Dist., 44; Lamon, Nash, 8; William, Hertford, 13
 Langdon, Rich., 58
 Langford, Elias, Northampton, 13
 Lanier, Benjamin, Duplin, 13; Isaac, Anson, 52; Mr. Robert, Newbern, 32; William, Newbern, 42
 Largent, James, Burke, 19
 Larkins, Aaron, New-Hanover, 4; James, New-Hanover, 4; Jones, New-Hanover, 4

⁴¹ Merchant Knox may have been related to Hugh Knox, author of this volume, and this may explain why so many copies were sold in Hertford.

- Lassiter, Wm., 53
 Lathrop, L. E., Wilmington, 39
 Lawree, James, Northampton, 13
 Lawrence, Abraham, Thyatira, 41; David, Pitt, 8; Elisha, Hertford, 13; Frederick, Bertie, 13; Joel, Thyatira, 41; John, Northampton, 51; Joshua, Edgecombe, 4, 8; Josiah, Edgecombe, 8; P. P., Edenton, 42;⁴² Peter P., Edgecombe, 8; Reuben, 13; William, jun., Craven, 44
 Lawrence's, M. H., Edgecombe, 8
 Lawson, David, Caswell, 4, 56
 Lazarus, Aaron, Wilmington, 42
 Lee, Joshua, Guilford, 4; Mr. Stephen, Onslow, 48
 Leech, J. P., Esq., Craven, 44; Joseph, Esq., Newbern, 9; Col. Joseph, Newbern, 48; Col. Joseph, J.P., Newbern, 50
 Legate, Alexander, Bertie, 13
 Leggett, Noah, Edgecombe, 8
 Leggitt, Bithel, Martin, 8; John A., Beaufort, 8
 Le Grand, Alexander, Edenton Dist., 44
 Leigh, Dr. John, Edgecombe, 44; John, M.D., Edgecombe, 50; John, M.D., Tarborough, 51; William C., Edgecombe, 8
 Lemon, Duncan, Esq., Edgcomb, 48
 Lenoir, Walter R., Wilkes, 55; William B., Wilkes, 38
 Lenox, J., Lenox Castle, 42;⁴³ John, Esq., Bertie, 51
 Leroy, L. S., Washington, 22
 Levy, Chapman, Camden, 52; Jacob, Wilmington, 42; Lionel L., 35;
see also Isaacs Levy & Bishop
 Lewis, Capt. Daniel, 26; Exum, Edgcomb, 42; Col. Howel, 53; John E., Caswell, 63; Jowel, Sen., 53; Mordecai, 1; Richard H., Edgecombe, 8; Willis, Granville, 39
 Lightfoot, Henry, esq., Fayetteville, 28; William, Northampton, 13
 Liles, Edwin, Hertford, 13
 Lilley, Daniel, Martin, 8
 Lindsay, Robert, Guilford C.H., 42; Samuel, 73; Mrs. Sarah, Hertford Town, 37
 Lindsey, Jos., 53
 Lippencott, Miss Sarah, Hertford Town, 37
 Little, Archibald, Orange, 34; Frederick, Edgecombe, 8; Jesse, Edgcomb, 13; Niel, esq., Richmond, 28; Wm., Esq., 68; William P., Esq., Hertford, 51
 Littlejohn, J. B., Edenton, 42; Joseph B., Edenton, 52; T. B., Granville, 42; Thomas B., Oxford, 39; William, Edenton Dist., 44; Mr. William, Merchant, Edenton, 37; William, merchant, Edenton, 51; William A., Edenton, 52; Wm. A., 26

⁴² The copy of this volume in the University of North Carolina Library has the bookplate of "Peter P. Lawrence."

⁴³ Lenox Castle was a summer resort at the mineral springs in Rockingham County, named for its witty and eccentric proprietor, John Lenox, who advertised his tavern in 1804 as "The Castle of Thundertontrenck." William Henry Hoyt (ed.), *The Papers of Archibald D. Murphey* (Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission [State Department of Archives and History], 2 volumes, 1914), I, 14.

Liverman, Adamant, Hertford, 13
 Lloyd, Thomas, 73
 Lock, Moses A., Salisbury, 46; Robert, Salisbury, 46
 Locke, Francis, Salisbury, 42, 52
 Lockhart, W. B., Northampton, 42
 London, John, Newbern, 52; John, Wilmington, 42
 Long, Alexander, Salisbury, 42; George W., Halifax, 52; Lumford, Halifax, 42; Lunsford, Halifax, 44; Lunsford, Esq., Halifax, 51; Lunsford, Esq., Deputy Clerk of Halifax County Court, 50; N., Lewisburg, 42; Nicholas, Esq., Halifax, 48; Nicholas, jun., Halifax, 44; William R., Edgecombe, 8
 Longino, Esq., John T., Salisbury, 51
 Loomis, Nathaniel, Onslow, 52
 Love, Josiah, Esq., Davidson, 51
 Lovelace, Archibald, Wilkes, 38
 Lovick, George, Craven, 50; George, Esq., Craven, 48; John, Esq., 68
 Lowrie, Samuel, Mecklenburg, 52
 Lowther, Charles E., 35; Tristram, Esq., Att. at Law, Bertie, 51; Tristram, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Edenton, 50
 Lowthorp, Francis, Esq., Newbern, 51
 Lowthrop, Francis, Esq., J.P., Craven, 44
 Loyd, Richard, Wilmington, 42
 Lucas, J. S., 35; Jesse B., Hyde, 8
 Lurry, William, Bertie, 13; William, Currituck, 13
 Luten, Frederick, Chowan, 13; King, Edenton, 42
 Lutterloh, Henry Lewis, esq., Chatham, 28
 Lyne, James, Granville, 42
 Lyon, H. L., Halifax, 8; Martin A., 35
 Lyons. *See* Dickens & Lyons

M⁴⁴

Mabry, Joshua, Warren, 44
 M'Adams, Hugh, 53
 M'Adow, John, 73; Samuel, 73
 M'Alister, James, Wilmington, 24
 M'Auslan, D., Fayette [District?], 42
 MacAuslan, Duncan, merchant, Fayetteville, 28
 Macbary, John, Montgomery, 4
 M'Brayer, James, Esq., Buncomb, 4
 M'Bride, Archibald, Moore, 52; Elisha, Edenton Dist., 44
 M'Cabe, Bryan, 4
 M'Cain, Hance, Guilford C.H., 42; Joseph, Guilford C.H., 42
 M'Carroll, Thomas, Chatham, 52
 M'Caulley, Spruce, 41

⁴⁴ All names beginning with M', Mac, and Mc have been alphabetized as if spelled Mac. The exact spelling of the names as recorded in the subscription lists has been retained, however.

- M'Cibber, Alex., Mecklinburgh, 41
 M'Ciewan, Adam, Charlotte, 22
 M'Clean, H., Fayette [District?], 42
 M'Cleland, Jno., Salisbury, 46
 M'Clellan, John, 73
 M'Clelland, John, Salisbury, 42; John, Esq., Salisbury, 41
 M'Clure, Thomas, Esq., Buncomb, 4
 M'Cord, John, Wilkesborough, 38
 M'Corkle, Abner, Thyatira, 41; Joel, Rowan, 41; Rev. S. E., D.D., Thyatira, 41
 MacCoy, Spruce, esq., Salisbury, 28; *see also* Macoy
 M'Crohan, Capt. John, Edenton, 37
 M'Culloch, George, Salisbury, 42; Samuel, Hillsboro, 42
 M'Culloh, George, Esq., Att. at Law, Halifax, 51
 M'Cullough, John, Esq., J.P., Onslow, 44
 M'Dermaid, Angus, 73
 M'Donald, William, merchant, Edenton, 51
 M'Dowall, James, 64
 M'Dowel, D., 41
 McDowel, Joseph, N. C., Representative, 24
 McDowell, Charles, Burke, 19; James R., Burke, 19
 M'Dowell, Rev. John, Elizabeth Town, 39; Joseph, 73; Col. Joseph, Burke, 51; Michael, Wilkes, 38
 McDowell, Patrick, Edgecombe, 8; Silas, Burke, 19
 M'Eachin, C., 35
 McEntire, William, Burke, 19
 McFarland, Duncan, Esq., Laurel-hill, 49
 MacFarland, Duncan, esq., Richmond, 28
 M'Farlane, John, Edenton, 42
 M'Gimpsey, Thos. A., 26
 McGimpsey, William, Burke, 19
 M'Ginty, A., Esq., Att. at Law, Washington, 51
 McGownd, James, Hyde, 8
 M'Gready, Rev. John, 20
 McGuire, John, Burke, 19
 Machen, Henry, Craven, 44; Henry, Newbern, 50; Henry, esq., Newbern, 28
 M'Intyre, James, Fayette [District?], 42
 Mack, Mr. Andrew, Newbern, 32
 Mackay, Mr. John, Newbern, 32; Spruce, Salisbury, 42; Thomas, Edenton Dist., 44
 M'Kee, Alexander, 53; Wm., Mecklinburgh, 41
 M'Kenzie, Alexander, Wilkes, 38; Captain Andrew, 26
 Mackenzie, George, Wilmington, 42
 McKenzie, K., Burke, 19
 M'Kerall, Captain W., Fayetteville, 42; Wm., 58
 McKilwean, Francis, Esq., Dobbs, 48
 M'Kinley, James, Newbern, 42

- M'Kinnie, Barnaba, Esq., Wayne, 49
 McKinnie, Capt. William, Dobbs, 48
 M'Kinny, William, Esq., Dobb's, 9
 M'Kinzie, Angus, 26; William, Williamston, 42
 McKoy, Robert, 30
 MacLaine, A., Esq., Wilmington, 9, 23; Archibald, esq., 28; Archibald, Esq., Att. at Law, Wilmington, 51; Thomas, Esq., Wilmington, 51
 M'lauch, Lauchlin, Fayette [District?], 42
 Maclean, Dr. Wm., Lincoln, 41
 M'Leran, Duncan, Fayetteville, 42
 M'Lin, Charles, Craven, 44; Thomas, Newbern, 42
 M'Lughen, James, Mecklinburgh, 41
 M'Millan, Alexander, Anson, 52; John, Fayetteville, 42; Murdock, 73
 M'Minnemy, John, 53
 M'Moren, Robert, Edenton Dist., 44
 M'Mullen, Eli, Halifax, 13
 MacMurphey, Daniel, Fayetteville, 28
 M'Murry, Samuel, 53
 M'Nair, E. D., Tarboro, 42; Malcolm, 73
 M'Nairy, Hon. John, Esq., one of the Judges of the Superior Courts in the territory of the U. S. south of the river Ohio, 51
 M'Naughton, Aulay, merchant, Wilmington, 51
 M'Neely, James, Thyatira, 41; John, Thyatira, 41; Robert, Center, 41
 Macneil, A. F., 72
 M'Neill, Archibald, 73; Daniel, Wilmington, 42
 M'Night, Rev. James, Coddle Creek, 41
 Macon, G. H., Esq., 53; John, Esq., J.P., Warren, 50; Nathaniel, 64; Nathaniel, M.C. from Warrenton, 74; Hon. Nathaniel, Esq., member of the House of Representatives of the United States, Warren, 50; Nathaniel, N. C. Representative, 24
 Macoy, Hon. Spruce, Esq., one of the Judges of the Superior Courts, Salisbury, 51; *see also* MacCoy
 M'Pheaters, William, D. D., Raleigh, 46
 M'Pherson, Matthew, Center, 41
 MacQueen, J., Fayetteville, 42
 M'Rae, D., Fayetteville, 42
 MacRae, Duncan, 5
 M'Rae, Duncan, P.M., Fayetteville, 22; John, Fayetteville, 46
 McRea, Rev. James, Mecklinburg, 33; Jeremiah, *see* Rea, Jeremiah M.C.
 M'Ree, Rev. James, Center, 41
 M'Roe, D., Fayetteville, 61
 McTaggart, Thomas, Burke, 19
 Maddry, Randolph, Northampton, 13
 Maer, William, Bertie, 13
 Magie, Rev. D. M., Elizabeth Town, 39
 Magimsney, Wm., Washington, 22
 Makey, Wilkinson, Edgecombe, 4

- Mallett, Edward, 35; John, 35; Peter, Esq., Wilmington, 51
 Malone, John A., 35; John L., 35
 Mancy, James, Esq., Hertford, 51
 Mangrum, John, Orange, 52
 Manly, Wm. Henry, 35
 Mann, Theodorick, Northampton, 13
 Manning, Exum, Nash, 8; Major, New-Hanover, 4; Moses, Duplin, 13; Thomas, Edgecombe, 4
 Manshell, A., Halifax, 42
 Mare, John, Esq., Edenton, 51
 Marler, James, Burke, 19
 Marling, J., Raleigh, 46
 Marshall, Francis, Salisbury, 42; James, Anson, 52; James, N. C. Co., 29⁴⁵
 Martin, Alexander, 43, 64, 66, 70; Alexander, Esq., Attorney at Law, Newbern, 32; His Excellency, Alexander, Esquire, Captain-General, Governor, and Commander in Chief, 44; A., Esq., His Excellency, Captain-General, Governor and Commander in Chief, Rockingham [County], 50; His Excellency Alexander, Esquire, Governor, Captain-General and Commander in Chief of the state of North-Carolina, 51; Alexander, senator, 59; Alex, Esq., senator for North-Carolina, 27; Alexander, Esq., S[enator], 16; A., N. C. Senator, 24; B. H., Newbern, 52; F. X., Esq., Att. at Law, Newbern, 51; F. X., Newbern, 52; J. sen., 26; J., Newbern, 42; Mr. James, Johnston, 48; Jesse, Burke, 19; John, Burke, 19; John, Wilkes, 38
 Martyn, Doc. Nathaniel, Hertford Town, 37
 Mason, Mr. _____ [blank], Adams Creek, 49; Allen, Hyde, 8; John, Hyde, 8; Thomas, Halifax, 13
 Massenburg, C., Raleigh, 42;
 Mathews, Benjamin, Franklin, 42; Maj. Mussendine, 26; Thomas, Fayette [District?], 42
 Matthews, John, 73; M., Esq., 73
 Maund, William, Edenton Dist., 44
 Maurice, Francis, Wilmington, 42
 Maxwell, James, Halifax, 42; Mr. Peter, 28
 May, Jos. S., Hyde, 8; Pleasant, Anson, 52; William, Anson, 52
 Maye, Joseph D., Hyde, 8
 Mayfield, Abraham, 53; John, 53
 Mayo, James, Martin, 8; Thomas, Martin, 8
 Meares, O. P., 35; W. B., 35
 Mearns, William S., Esq., Register, Nash, 51
 Mebane, Capt. Alex., 53; Alexander, Brigadier-General, Orange, 50; James, 53; W., 73

⁴⁵ "N. C. Co." is undoubtedly the result of the subscription-taker's unfamiliarity with the names of North Carolina counties. One James Marshall lived in Anson County in 1790, according to the *First Census, 1790* and a man by the same name, also from Anson County, subscribed for John Haywood's *Reports* in 1806. "N. C. Co." and "Anson Co." when spoken do sound very much alike, and this suggests that subscriptions to this book were taken orally by an agent who toured the State.

- Meekins, Isaac, Tyrrell, 8
 Melson, James, Currituck, 8
 Mendenhall, George, Guilford, 52
 Meng, William, Fayette [District?], 42
 Meniel, Archibald, Moore, 4
 Meniell, Archibald, 4
 Mercer, John, Edgecombe, 8; William, Edgecombe, 8
 Meritt, Hezekiah, Jones, 44
 Meroney, Wm. B., Fayetteville, 22
 Meuse, William T., Pasquotank, 42
 Mewbern, Parrot, Lenoir, 13
 Mhoon, John, Bertie, 13
 Midgett, Levy, Hyde, 8
 Millan, Alexander, Edenton, 42, 52
 Millekin, Robert, 53
 Miller, A. C., Halifax, 54; Ephraim, Bertie, 13; Frederick, Roen [Rowan], 42; George, Esq., Dobb's, 9; John, 13; Lewis, Bertie, 13; M., 41; William [governor], 46; William, Warrenton, 52
 Mills, Charles, 26; Menan, Rockingham Co., 4
 Minton, Cader, Bertie, 13
 Mitchel, William, Bertie, 13
 Mitchell, Charles M., Anson, 52; David, Esq., 53; John, Burke, 19; Richard, Gates, 42; William, Craven, 44. *See also*, Johnston & Mitchell
 Mizle, Durant, Washington, 8; Elizabeth, Martin, 8
 Modlin, Demsey, Bertie, 13
 Moffit, Hugh, Randolph, 52
 Moignard, Jean Louis Baptiste, Beaufort, 44, 50
 Montfort, Henry, Esq., Warren, 51; Major James, Halifax, 48
 Montgomery, Michael, 73; Robert, Edenton Dist., 44
 Moody, Nathaniel, 73
 Moore, A., Wilmington, 43; Alexander D., Wilmington, 42; Alfred, esq., 28; Alfred, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Orange, 50; Alfred, Esq., late Attorney-General, Hillsborough, 51; Alfred, Jun'r, Wilmington, 52; Charles, Halifax, 51; Daniel, Esq., Burke, 56; Lieut. E., Burke, 56; Edmund, Pitt, 8; Gabriel, Stokes, 52; Mr. Isaac, Hertford Town, 37; J., 73; James, Halifax, 42; James, Esq., Attorney at Law, New-Hanover, 50; James, jun., Hertford, 13; Jesse, Burke, 56; Jesse, Northampton, 4; Jesse, Pitt, 8; John, Hertford, 13; Major John, Lincoln, 51; John R., Edgecombe, 8; Joseph, Martin, 4; Josephus, Martin, 8; Lawrence, Anson, 52; Maurice, Wilmington, 42; Nancy T., Hyde, 8; R. M. G., Hyde, 8; Mrs. Rebecca, Pittsborough, 39; Capt. Robert, 53; Samuel, Martin, 8; Thomas, Person, 42; Thomas, Rockingham Co., 4; Thomas J., Person, 52; Rev. William, 73; William, Caswell, 4; Wm., Caswell, 56; William, Hertford, 13; William, New-Hanover, 13; William, Salisbury, 42; Dr. Wm., 26; William E., Northampton, 13; Wm. E., Esq., Northampton, 4

Mordecai, Jacob, 5
 Mordeica, Jacob, Warrenton, 42
 Morehead, John, Esq., Rockingham Co., 4
 Morgan, Henry, Edgcombe, 8; Joseph, Camden, 52; Stephen, Buncomb, 4; W. P., Murfreesboro', 42
 Morris, Aaron, Edenton Dist., 44; Aaron, jun., Edenton Dist., 44; Hillary, Hertford, 13; William, Esq., Halifax, 51
 Morrison, James, Mecklinburgh, 41; John, Mecklinburgh, 41; Thomas, Esq., 73
 Morriss, Moses, Bertie, 13
 Morrissey, George, Duplin, 50
 Morrow, Wm., 53
 Moseley, James L., 35
 Mosely, Col. Edward, 68
 Moss, Reuben, 53
 Motherall, Samuel, 53
 Motherell, Joseph, 53
 Mountfloreence, James C., Halifax, 44
 Moye, Gideon, Pitt, 13
 Muir, William, Merchant, Halifax, 51
 Mulder, Kedar, Edenton Dist., 44
 Mumford, John, 58
 Munford, James, Esq., J.P., Onslow, 50
 Munroe, John, 73
 Murden, Malachi, Esq., Halifax, 48
 Murdock, Andrew, 53; David, Duplin, 50
 Murfree, H. H., Murfreesboro', 42; William H., Murfreesborough, 13
 Murphey, Edward, Hertford, 13
 Murphy, A. D., 55; A. D., Hillsboro, 42; A. D., Hillsborough, 52; Alex., 41 [name appears twice]; Capt Alexander, 73; Col. Arch., 53; Archd., Casewell C.H., 42; Archibald D., 6; Archibald D., Allernance, 54; James, Burke, 19 [name appears twice]; John, 35; John, Burke, 19; Murdock, 73; Mr. Thomas, jun., Newbern, 32; William, Burke, 19
 Murray, Arthur, Duplin, 4; Thomas, Lincoln, 42
 Murry, Silas, Washington, 8
 Muse, William T., Pasquotank, 52
 Muttal, John, Granville, 42
 Mutter, Tho., merchant, 53
 Myrick, Francis, 53
 Mysick, J. D., 35

N

Nash, Abner, Esq., Attorney at Law, Halifax, 48; Abner, Esq., Attorney at Law, Newbern, 32, 50; Frederick, 5; Hon. Frederic, Hillsborough, 39; Frederick, Newbern, 42, 52
 Nasher, Z. D. B., 73
 Neal, Capt. Philemon, Rockingham Co., 4; Ralph, 53; Willis, Hyde, 8

Neale, Abner, Esq., Clerk of the Court of the District of North Carolina, 44; Abner, Esq., Clerk of the Federal Court for the district of North-Carolina, Newbern, 51; Christian, Esq., Clerk of Craven County, 9; Mr. Christopher, Newbern, 32; Thomas, Esq., New-Hanover, 51
 Neely, Thomas, Mecklinburgh, 41
 Negus, William, M.D., Wayne, 13
 Nelms, Jeremiah, Esq., Halifax, 51
 Nelson, Alexander, esq., Lincoln, 28; John, Newbern, 42; Sam., 53
 Nesbit, David M., 26; John, jun., Statesville, 42
 Netherclift, Thomas, Wilmington, 43
 Newbern, Commissioners of, 49
 Newbold, Mr. William, Hertford Town, 37
 Newby, Mr. Francis, Hertford Town, 37; Larkin, Fayette [District?], 42
 Newland, Samuel, Burke, 19
 Newman, Anthony, Salisbury, 42; Thomas, merchant, Fayetteville, 28
 Newman, Dr. John, 29
 Newton, Thomas, Esq., Attorney at Law, Edgecombe, 50
 Nicholas, J., Northampton, 42
 Nichols, Colonel Humphrey, Bertie, 28; Major John, 26
 Nicholson, Edward, Esq., Nash, 51; John, 73; Josiah, Edenton Dist., 44; Samuel, Mumfreesboro', 63; Zachariah, Edenton Dist., 44
 Nickins, Willis, Hertford, 13
 Nisbet, John, Esq., 26; Miles, Fayette [District?], 42; Milus, 26
 Nixon, Col. Richard, Craven, 51; Samuel, Perquiman, 42
 Norcom, E. H., 35; Frederick, Chowan, 51; Mr. John, Chowan, 28
 Norfleet, Elisha, Edenton, 42; Elisha, Esq., Coroner, Edenton, 51; M. D., Halifax, 42; Marmaduke, Scotland Neck, 54
 Norron, Daniel, Onslow, 4
 North Carolina, The Hon. the General Assembly of the state of, 51
 North Carolina, The State of, 49
 Norwood, Edward, Grammont, 42; Wash., Granville, 42; William, Hillsboro, 42, 52
 Nowel, Demsey, Bertie, 13; John, Bertie, 13
 Nowill, Lemuel, Martin, 8

O

Oats, Capt. James, Dobbs, 48
 O'Bricken, J. O., Washington, 57
 Odell, Isaac, Rowan, 4
 Oden, Asa, Beaufort, 8
 Odol, Barnabas, Rowan, 4
 Ogden, Robert, Granville, 52; Robert, Newbern, 42; Mr. Titus, Newbern, 32
 Ogleby, John, Person, 42; Richard, Caswell, 63
 Oliphant, Joseh, 26

Oliver, Elder Francis, Duplin, 13; J. J., Caswell, 63; John, Bertie, 13;
 Micajah, Bertie, 13
 Olan, John, Burke, 19
 O'Malley, Myles, Edenton, 51
 O'Neil, Henry M. Burke, 19; James M., Burke, 19
 O'Reilly, James C., Wilkesborough, 38
 Orme, Mr. Robert, Craven, 48
 Orsborne, Edwin Jay, Esq., 26
 Osborn, Adlai, esq., Iredell, 28; Col. Adlai, Esq., Center, 41; Adlai,
 jun., Center, 41; Adlai L., Salisbury, 52; Edwin Jay, Esq., Center,
 41; James, Mecklinburgh, 41; Dr. John C., Beaufort, 44
 Osborne, A., Salisbury, 42; A. L., Salisbury, 42; Adlai, Esq., Att. at
 Law, Salisbury, 51; Edward J., Fayette [District?], 42; Edwin
 Jay, L.L.D., Fayetteville, 22
 Outlaw, Aaron, Bertie, 13; David, Hertford, 13; Edward, Bertie, 13;
 George, Bertie, 13; George, jun., Bertie, 13; Joshua, Bertie, 13;
 Lewis, Bertie, 13; William, Bertie, 13; Wright, Bertie, 13
 Outerbridge, Burr, Martin, 4
 Outterbridge, Ste'n, Martin, 8; Steph., Franklin, 42
 Owen, John, Fayetteville, 39; Thomas, Blanden [Bladen], 42
 Owens, Mr. John, Newbern, 32; Stephen, 42

P

Paisley, Rev. William, 73; Rev. Wm., Orange, 41
 Paison, John, Wilmington, 42
 Pannill, W., Granville, 42
 Park, Mr. William, Newbern, 32
 Parker, Hardy G., Pitt, 8; John, Hertford, 13; Jonathan, Esq., 73;
 King, Hertford, 13; Lemuel, Northampton, 13 [name appears
 twice]; Nathan, Edenton Dist., 44; Peter, Hertford, 13; Reubin,
 Bertie, 13; Robert, Hertford, 13; Silas, sen., Hertford, 13; Silas,
 jun., Hertford, 13; Thomas, Bertie, 13; Weeks, Jr., Edgecombe, 8;
 William, Hertford, 13
 Parkinson, Mr. Barnard, Newbern, 48
 Parks, James, Mecklinburgh, 41; Joshua, Mecklinburgh, 41; Robert,
 Caswell, 52
 Parrott, Mr. James, Dep. Secretary of the Province, Newbern, 32
 Pasquotank Court, 52
 Pasteur, A., Newbern, 42; Charles, Esq., Halifax, 51; E., Newbern, 42
 Paterson, Mr. James, Chatham, 28
 Patrick, J. M., Raleigh, 46
 Patten, John, Esq., Newbern, 32
 Payne, Michael, esq., Edenton, 28, 51; Mr. Michal, Merchant, Eden-
 ton, 27; Michael, Edenton District, 44
 Peal, Abram, Martin, 8
 Pearce, Oliver, Fayette [District?], 42
 Pearson, Hurbert, Anson, 52; Joseph, Salisbury, 42, 52; Richmond,
 Esq., Salisbury, 51

- Peck, T. B., Fayette [District?], 42; William, Raleigh, 42, 46
 Peden, Moses, 73
 Peebles, Henry, Northampton, 13; Sterling, Northampton, 42
 Pender, Elizabeth, Edgecombe, 8; James, Halifax, 8; Jethro, Hertford, 13; John, Martin, 8; Joshua, Edgecombe, 8; William, Edgecombe, 8
 Penn, John, 34
 Penny, Joshua, New-Hanover, 4
 Peoples, Hubbard, Guilford, 4
 Perkins, David, Esq., Sheriff, Pitt, 51; Moses, Rowan, 4
 Perry, Benjamin, Edenton Dist., 44; Jacob, Edenton Dist., 44 [name appears twice]; John, Martin, 8; Joshua, Franklin, 42; Josiah, Bertie, 13; Micajah, Martin, 8; Peter, Fayetteville, 42; William, Beaufort, 8; William B., 8
 Person, Benjamin, Granville, 42; Benjamin, Esq., Granville, 48; General Thomas, Granville, 50; Thomas, Esq., Newbern, 32; Thomas J., 35
 Peterson, John, Esq., Northampton, 51
 Pettigrew, Charles, 28
 Petway, William D., Edgecombe, 8
 Phagan, John, Burke, 19
 Pharr, Edward, 73
 Phelps, Joseph, Edenton Dist., 44
 Phifer, John, Cabarrus, 52; Capt. Martin, Mecklenburg, 48
 Philanthropic Society, Chapel Hill, 39
 Philanthropic Society, University, N. Carolina, 41
 Philips, James, Edenton District, 44; James J., Edgecombe, 8
 Phillips, Frederick, Edgecombe, 4; Mark, Moore, 4; Thomas H., Martin, 8
 Philips, Mr. Benjamin, Hertford Town, 37
 Pickens, Andrew, 73
 Pickett, Charles, Rowan, 4; W. R., Anson, 52
 Pierson, Isaac, Burke, 19
 Pillson, Thomas, Grenville, 61
 Pilshard, Mr. John, Newbern, 32
 Pinckard, Thos. C., 35
 Pipkin, John, Esq., Northampton, 13
 Phippen, Jos. Jno., Edgecombe, 8
 Pitchett, Jeremiah, Guilford, 4
 Pitt, Jo P., Edgecombe, 8; John, Edgecombe, 8
 Pittman, Dempsey, Halifax, 8; F. R., Halifax, 8
 Pleasants, Fred. W., Caswell, 63
 Plummer, Kemp, Warrenton, 42, 52; Kemp, Esq., Att. at Law, Warrenton, 51
 Plunkett, A., Warrenton, 46
 Polk, William, Raleigh, 42; William J., M.D., Raleigh, 46
 Pollock, Cullen, Edenton Dist., 44; George, Newbern, 50; Thomas, Esq., 6

Pollok, Cullen, Esq., Edenton, 50, 51
 Pontz, Mungo, Halifax, 51
 Pool, John, 35
 Poor, Enoch, Center, 41
 Pope, Charles, Rowan, 4; Dempsey, Nash, 8; George, Rowan, 4
 Pore, Eli, Halifax, 8
 Porter, Benjamin P., Edgecombe, 8; Ely, Edgecombe, 8
 Porterfield, James, Fayetteville, 28; James, Esq., Fayetteville, 50;
 John, Fayetteville, 28
 Posey, Humphrey, Buncomb, 4
 Potter, Henry, Raleigh, 52; Henry, esq., 29; James, 8
 Potts, Joshua, Wilmington, 42; Robert, Center, 41; Robert, jun., 26
 Pounds, Daniel W., Rockingham Co., 4
 Powel, Cader, Bertie, 13; David, Edgecombe, 4; William, Bertie, 13
 Powell, Cader, jun., Hertford, 13; Charles, Edenton Dist., 44; Jesse,
 Halifax, 13; Jos. J. W., Halifax, 8; Micajah, Hertford, 13; Samuel,
 Halifax, 13; Wiley, 8
 Prather, Rev. Leonard, Orange, 41
 Prescott, Willbey, Carteret, 4
 Presnall, Esau, Burke, 19
 Price, David, 73; David, Guilford C.H., 42; Jonathan, 58; Jonathan,
 Edenton Dist., 44; Reese, Mecklinburgh, 41; William, Beaufort,
 8; William, Edgecombe, 8; William H., Beaufort, 8
 Pride, F. J., Halifax, 42; N. J., Raleigh, 46
 Pugh, Augustine, Bertie, 13; Eaton, 45; Edmund, Warrenton, 45;
 Francis, Franklin, 42; Henry, Bertie, 13; James, Bertie, 13; John
 H., Hertford, 13
 Pulliam, B., Granville, 42; J. B., Granville, 42
 Purss, Mr. Henry, Newbern, 32

R

Raburn, H., Burke, 19
 Rainey, James, Casewell C.H., 42
 Ralston, S., Newbern, 42
 Ramcke, Dr. Frederick, Edenton, 51
 Ramsay, Robert, 26; Robert, Thyatira, 41; Thomas, New-Hanover,
 13
 Ramsey, Alexander, 35; Allen, Edenton Dist., 44
 Randall, William, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44
 Randolph, David R., Anson, 52
 Rankin, John, 73
 Ransom, James, 53; W., Franklin, 42
 Ranson, James, Warren, 44
 Raper, William, Rowan, 4
 Raphal, James, Duplin, 4
 Rascoe, John, Bertie, 13; Thomas W., Martin, 8
 Ratcliff, William, Beaufort, 8
 Rawlins, Edred, Montgomery C.H., 55

- Rawls, Moriah, Bertie, 13
 Ray, Wm., jun., 53
 Rayner, Elijah, Bertie, 13; Enoch, Bertie, 13; Joshua, Bertie, 13; Miles, Colerain, 13; Samuel, Bertie, 13; William, Bertie, 13; Zadok, Bertie, 13
 Rea, Jeremiah M.C., Raleigh, 46; Robert, 53; William Murfreesboro', 42
 Read, Jacob, Director, Bank of the United States, 57; Jesse, Halifax, 56
 Reas, James, Esq., Att. at Law, Greene, 51
 Rector, John, Onslow, 52
 Reddick, Thomas, Sen., Martin, 8
 Redmond, James, Washington, 42
 Reed, The Revd. Mr. James, Newbern, 48; Jesse, Halifax, 4; Mr. William, Perqueman's, 37
 Reeve, William, 73
 Reeves, Rev. Willis, Raleigh, 46
 Reichel, Charles Gotthold, Salem, 54
 Relfe, Enoch, Esq., Clerk, Pasquotank, 51
 Rew, Southey, Craven, 44
 Reynolds, Miss Sally, Wilkes, 38
 Rhea, John, Esq., Att. at Law, Lincoln, 51
 Rhoades, Capt. John, Bertie, 13; Jonathan, Bertie, 13; Joseph T., Duplin, 13; Robert, Bertie, 13; Thomas, Bertie, 13
 Rhymes, J., Halifax, 42
 Rian, James, Bertie, 13
 Rice, Mr. John, Newbern, 48
 Richards, Danford, Edgecomb, 8
 Richardson, Joseph, Pasquotank; *see also* Gautier & Richardson
 Ricks, Willie, Nash, 8
 Riddick, Major Joseph, Gates, 50, 51
 Ridley, Bromfield, Esq., Granville, 51
 Ridmond, James, Washington, 22
 Riptoe, David, Burke, 19
 Ritchie, James, merchant, Fayetteville, 28; James, Sampson, 42
 Rivers, N. D., Jr., Leakville, 63
 Rives, Richard E., Pitt, 8
 Roach, Charles, jun., Newbern, 42; James, 53
 Roan, Archibald, Esq., Greene, 51
 Robands, William, Williamsboro', 42
 Robards, John, Carteret, 8
 Robason, L., Newbern, 42; Thomas, Sen., Carteret, 8
 Roberts, Benjamin, Murfreesboro', 42; Benjamin, Esq., Murfreesboro', 13; George, Rockingham Co., 4, 56; Rev. Geo., 53; James, Esq., Chowan, 51; James, Edenton Dist., 44; Col. John, Carteret, 4; William, Esq., Sheriff, Chowan, 51
 Robertson, Mr. John, merchant, Newbern, 49; Thos., Carteret, 8
 Robinett, Allen, Wilkes, 38

Robins, James, Edgecomb, 13
 Robinson, A., 73; Rev. James, Cabarus, 41; Rev. John, 73; Robert, Charlotte, 22; Toddy, Anson, 52; William, 65
 Rogers, Mr. John, Johnston, 48; L. H., 35; Thomas, Stokes, 52
 Rogerson, William, Martin, 8
 Rooker, John, 53; John, Charlotte, 22
 Rose, Reuben, Hyde, 8; Richard, Nash, 8
 Ross, Ann, Edgecombe, 4; George, Cabarus, 41; Joseph, merchant, Tarborough, 50, 51; Lemuel, Beaufort, 8; Martin, Beaufort, 8; Elder Martin, Perquimans, 13; Nathan, Martin, 13
 Roulhac, John, Esq., Att. at Law, Martin, 51; Psalmet Gregoire, Beaufort, 44
 Rowan, John, Bertie, 13; John, Esq., Newbern, 32; Col. Robert, Fayetteville, 28
 Rowland, A. & A., Lumberton, 42
 Rucks, Rev. Josiah, 53
 Ruffin, James, Northampton, 13; James S., 35; Lamon, Esq., Edgcomb, 51; William, 5
 Russ, Thomas, New-Hanover, 51
 Russell, Andrew, Esq., Clerk and Master in Equity for Washington District, 51
 Rutherford, Griffith, Esq., Newbern, 32
 Rutland, Abednego, Northampton, 13; James, Bertie, 4, 13; Turner, Halifax, 8; Watson, 13
 Ryal, P., Newbern, 42
 Ryan, George, Edenton Dist., 44; James, Edenton Dist., 44
 Rymer, David, Buncomb, 4

S

Sabiston, Robert, Carteret, 4
 Sadler, Samuel, Hyde, 8; Thomas, Hyde, 8
 St. Lawrence, Patrick, esq., Chatham, 28
 Salter, Edward, Esq., Newbern, 32
 Sampson, M., Sampson, 52; Michael, 58; Michael, Wilmington, 43; Michael, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Wilmington, 50
 Sams, Burdet, Buncomb, 4
 Samuel, Archibald, Caswell, 63
 Sanders, Charles, Newbern, 42; E., Newbern, 42; James, Caswell, 63; Joseph, Caswell, 63; R., Esq., Clerk of Johnston County Court, 49; Reuben, 6; Capt. Wm., 53
 Sanford, Mr. Samuel, Dobbs, 48
 Sasser, James, Wayne, 52; John, Esq., 9
 Satterwhite, Horace B., 26
 Saunders, John P., Hertford, 13
 Savage, Lemuel, Edgecombe, 8
 Savidge, Alston, Edgecombe, 8
 Sawyer, Demsey, Edenton Dist., 44; Enoch, Camden, 42; Enoch, Edenton Dist., 44; Jacob, Currituck, 13; Samuel, Edenton Dist., 44

Scales, Alfred M., 35; Col. Nathan, Rockingham Co., 4
 Schenck, John G. L., Edgecombe, 44; Peter H., 30
 Schweiniz, Lewis D., 55
 Scott, Edward M., 35; J., Raleigh, 46; James G., 35; John, 58; John
 T., Raleigh, 46
 Sears, John, 53
 Seawell, Benjamin, Franklin, 28; H., Raleigh, 42; Henry, Raleigh, 52;
 James, Franklin, 52
 Seigling, John H., Burke, 19
 Semmons, Adam, Montgomery, 4
 Sepple, James, Rockingham Co., 4
 Sessions, Isaac, Fayetteville, 28
 Sessoms, Nathan, Bertie, 13
 Sessums, Nathan, Edgecombe, 8
 Setton, Lewis, Mecklinburgh, 41
 Sevier, John, Member House of Representatives, 40; Brig. Gen. John,
 Washington county [Tenn.], 51 ⁴⁶
 Sharp, Abner, Statesville, 42; Anthony, 53; Azel, Esq., 26; Major
 John, Mecklinburgh, 41; William, Esq., 73; Wm., Esq., Center, 41
 Sharpe, Benjamin, Edgecombe, 8; James, Iredell, 51; Starkey, Eden-
 ton Dist., 44; Starkey, Esq., Hertford, 51; William, Esq., Att. at
 Law, Salisbury, 51
 Shaw, H. Casewell C.H., 42; Hugh, 73 [name appears twice]; John,
 Nixonton, 42; Oliver P., Greensborough, 39
 Shell, John, Burke, 19
 Shepard, William, Newbern, 42; William, sen., 73
 Shephard, Mr. Jacob, Merchant, Newbern, 9
 Shepherd, Col. Abraham, Dobbs, 48
 Sheppard, Col. Benjamin, Dobbs, 49; Benjamin, Esq., J.P., Dobbs, 44
 Shepperd, William, Hillsboro, 42
 Sherard, John V., 35
 Sherrell, Babel, Burke, 19
 Sherrill, Enos, 73
 Shield, Charles, Halifax, 8; John, Halifax, 8
 Shirley, Geraldus, Edgecombe, 8; Mrs. [Geraldus?], Edgecombe, 8 ⁴⁷
 Shivers, Jonas, Pitt, 13
 Shoher, Charles, 35; G., 55; G., Salem, 52; Gotlieb, Esq., 26; Gotlieb,
 Salem, 50; Samuel, 55
 Short, Henry, Martin, 8; Lydia, Pitt, 8
 Shufford, Jacob, Lincoln, 19
 Shute, Ia., Newbern, 42; Capt. Joseph, Newbern, 49, 50
 Shuter, John, 58
 Sibley, George C., Fayetteville, 42; John, Fayetteville, 28
 Sikes, John, 4

⁴⁶ A county formed in 1777 in North Carolina's western territory which was ceded to the United States government in 1790. A part of Washington County was annexed to Wilkes County in 1792. Corbitt, *Formation of North Carolina Counties*, 216.

⁴⁷ "Mrs. Shirley" follows "Geraldus Shirley" in the list of subscribers.

- Simmons, Abraham B., Esq., J.P., Jones, 44; B., Esq., J.P., Jones, 44; Elijah, Onslow, 4; Hillary, Edenton Dist., 44; Jesse, Edenton Dist., 44; John, Edenton Dist., 44
- Simms, William, Edgecombe, 4
- Simons, Mr. Humphrey, Hertford Town, 37
- Simpson, R. W. Col., M. First Lodge No. Carolina, 14;⁴⁸ Hugh, Caswell, 52; W[orshipful] Mr. Ichabod, J. W., First Lodge, No. Carolina, 14; Isaac, Beaufort, 8; Mr. John, merchant, Washington, 49
- Sims, John C., Washington, 22
- Singleton, David, Beaufort, 8; S., Newbern, 42; Spyers, Esq., J.P., Craven, 44, 50
- Sitgreaves, the Honorable John, Esquire, District Judge of the United States, for North-Carolina District, 44, 49, 51; Hon. John, Esq., Judge of the District Court of the United States, Newbern, 50
- Skelton, David, Esq., 53
- Skiles, John, Bertie, 13
- Skinner, J. B., Edenton, 42; Joseph B., Edenton, 52; James, Northampton, 13; John, Edenton, 42; Thos. E., 35
- Slade, Wm., Edenton, 52; William, Esq., Martin, 51; Wm., Newbern, 43; William, Esq., attorney at law, Newbern, 28; William, Esq., Att. at Law, Newbern, 51; William, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Newbern, 50
- Sloan, James, Mecklinburgh, 41; Robert, Center, 41; Robert, Lincoln, 41
- Smallwood, Charles, Esq., Attorney at Law, Beaufort, 50
- Smart, G. W., Charlotte, 42; F. B., Charlotte, 42
- Smaw, William, Beaufort, 8
- Smiley, James, 73
- Smith, Adam, sen., 73; Barney, Burke, 19; Mr. Bazell, Craven, 48; General Benjamin, 65; Brigadier General Benjamin, Belvidere, 49; Col. Benjamin, Belvidere, 51; Daniel, Bertie, 4; Daniel, Esq., Secretary of State in the territory of the U. S. south of the river Ohio, 51; David, Cumberland, 28; David, Esq., J.P., Dobbs, 44; Edwin, Johnston, 52; Henry, Burke, 19; J. W., Granville, 42; James, 53, 73; James, Buncomb, 4; James, Fayette [District?], 42; James, junr., Halifax, 54; Maj James W., 73; John F., Esq., J.P., Craven, 44; John F., Esq., Newbern, 51; John P., 73; Nathaniel, Newbern, 42; Oliver, Washington, 42; R. W., Charlotte, 42; Col. Samuel, 53; Samuel, Esq., 73; Samuel, Buncomb, 4; Samuel, Esq., Johnston, 49; Samuel, Person, 42; Thomas, sen., Washington, 42; W. M., 35; William, Rockingham Co., 4; William, Jr., Carteret, 8; William R., Scotland Neck, 54
- Smither, Gabriel, 65

⁴⁸ The Right Worshipful Col. Simpson, Master of the First Lodge in North Carolina, in 1772 when this volume was published, cannot now be positively identified. His first name may have been William. One William Simpson was a member of the Lodge some years later. St. John's Lodge No. 1, A. F. & A. M., Wilmington, has none of its records for the period 1754-1788. Chas. B. Newcomb, Secretary, to William S. Powell, October 23, 1956.

- Smithwick, Hum. B., Bertie, 13; Lanier, Bertie, 13; Luke, Bertie, 13
 Snead, Robert W., Esq., J.P., Onslow, 44, 50; Thomas, Esq., J.P.,
 Onslow, 44, 50
 Sneed, James, 41; S., Williamsboro', 42; Stephen K., Oxford, 39
 Snowden, Nathan, Edenton Dist., 44
 Snyder, W. V., Leakville, 63
 Solomon, Bennet, Montgomery, 4
 Somervell, James L., Warrenton, 52
 Somerville, John, Granville, 42; Mary, Granville, 39
 Somewell, John, 53
 Sorey, Robert, Edgecombe, 8
 Sorsby, Alexander, Nash, 52
 Southerland, Phil., sen., Duplin, 13; Robert, Duplin, 13
 Sowel, George, Hertford, 13
 Sowler, Eli, Moore, 4
 Spaight, Richard Dobbs, Esq., Newbern, 51; Richard Dobbs, Esq.,
 J.P., Craven, 44, 50; His Excellency, Richard Dobbs, Esq., Cap-
 tain General, Governor and Commander in Chief of the State of
 North-Carolina, Newbern, 49
 Sparks, Samuel, Edgecombe, 4
 Speight, William, Esq., J.P., Dobbs, 44
 Speller, Henry, Bertie, 13; Thomas, Bertie, 13
 Spence, Carey, Currituck, 8
 Spencer, Samuel, Esq., Newbern, 32; Mr. Samuel, Attorney at Law,
 Rowan, 48; Samuel, L.L.D., one of the Judges of the Superior
 Courts, 51; Samuel, one of the judges of the Superior Court of
 North Carolina, Anson, 28 [name appears twice]; Hon. Samuel,
 L.L.D., Judge of the Superior Courts of Law and Courts of Equity,
 Anson, 50; The Honorable Samuel, L.L.D., Judge of the Superior
 Courts of Law and Equity, 44
 Spiers, Thomas, Hertford, 13
 Spiller, James, Esq., Att. at Law, Sampson, 51
 Spivey, Aaron, Bertie, 4; Elder Aaron, Bertie, 13; David, Bertie, 13;
 Richard, Bertie, 13; William, Bertie, 13
 Sprewell, Emri, Martin, 8
 Springs, J. R., Charlotte, 42; John B., Charlotte, 22
 Spruill, George E., 30; Hezekiah, Esq., Tyrrel, 51
 Squires, Roger, Edenton District, 44
 Stafford, Mr. John, Hertford Town, 37
 Staiert, Sebastian, Fayetteville, 28
 Stallings, James, Edgecombe, 8; Jesse, Edgecombe, 8; Nicholas, Eden-
 ton Dist., 44
 Stallins, Humphrey, Martin, 8
 Stampire, John A., Halifax, 8
 Stanby, James, Newbern, 22
 Stancill, Caswel, Pitt, 8
 Stanford, Hon. R[ichard], Chapel-Hill, 22; R[ichard], Member of
 Congress, 25; Richard, 4; Samuel, 73

- Stanley, John, Newbern, 52; Rd., Newbern, 42
 Stanly, James Green, Newbern, 52
 Staton, Baker, Halifax, 8; Roderick, Edgecombe, 8; Winfield D., Edgecombe, 8
 Stedman, E., Fayette [District?], 42
 Stedwick [Strudwick], Hon. Samuel, Esq., Secretary of the Province, and Member of his Majesty's Council, Newbern, 32
 Steele, David, 55; Elijah, jun., 30; John, Salisbury, 42; Hon. John, Esq., member of the House of Representatives of the United States, Salisbury, 50; T. W., 35
 Stevens, John, Jun., Smithfield, 57
 Stevenson, James, 26; Joseph, Esq., 26; Mrs. Mary, Perqueman's, 37; William, Esq., 73
 Stevilie, Frederic, Burke, 19; John H., Burke, 19
 Stewart, Finley, 73; James, 73; James, Beaufort, 44; James, Richmond, 52; Col. Joseph, Chatham, 50; Thomas, Esq., Halifax, 48; William, Center, 41; William, Mecklinburgh, 41
 Stokeley, Isaac, Pasquotank, 52
 Stokes, Hon. John, Esq., late District Judge of the U. S. for the district of North-Carolina, 51; John R., 26; M., Salisbury, 42; Major Gen. Montford, 26
 Stone, David, Member of Congress, 25; David, Esq., Bertie, 51; Zedekiah, Edenton Dist., 44
 Strange, John K., 35
 Strother, Joseph, 55
 Strudwick, Samuel, *see* Stedwick; W. F., Esq., Orange, 28
 Stuart, Robert, Tarboro, 42
 Stubblefield, Richard, Rockingham Co., 4
 Sturman, M., Newbern, 42
 Styron, John, Carteret, 8; Jorge, Carteret, 8; Lemuel, Carteret, 8; Richard, Carteret, 8; William, Carteret, 8
 Suddith, Benjamin, Guilford, 4
 Summers, William, Martin, 8
 Sumner, Edwin, 51; J. E., Bertie, 13; Robert, Esq., Hertford, 48
 Sutherland, Ransom, Wake, 52; Simmons, 8
 Sutton, Ambrose, Buncomb, 4; Ashbury, Edenton Dist., 44; Ashbury, Esq., Perquimans, 51; Thomas, Bertie, 4, 13
 Swain, Abram J., Tyrrell, 8; David L., 35; George, Esq., Buncomb, 4; Jeremiah Frazer, Edenton Dist., 44
 Swan, J., Wilmington, 42
 Swann, Isaac, Thyatira, 41; John, Esq., Wilmington, 50; Samuel, Esq., Attorney at Law, 48
 Swindell, A. B., Hyde, 8; Emery, Hyde, 8; Wade, Jr., Hyde, 8

T

- T _____ [blank], Alexander, Edgecombe, 4
 Tabb, Thomas, Esq., Halifax, 51; Mr. William, Newbern, 32
 Tadlock, Absalom, Bertie, 13

- Talcott, George, Newbern, 50
 Taleavero, R., 35
 Taloe, Thomas, Bertie, 13
 Tarbe. *See* Farbe
 Tart, John, Bertie, 13
 Tate, David, Burke, 19; David, jun., Burke, 19; John B., Burke, 19;
 Robert, Burke, 19; Rev. Robert, 73; Robert H., 35; Samuel C.,
 Burke, 19; Samuel McD., Burke, 19; Wm., 53
 Tatom, Absalom, 64; Absalom, M.C. from Hillsborough, 74
 Tatum, Maxamiliana, Currituck, 8
 Tayloe, D. T., 35
 Taylor, Charles, Granville, 42; Frs., Warrenton, 42; Isaac, Newbern,
 42; Isaac, Esq., Anson, 44; James, Bertie, 13; John, 53; John,
 Hillsboro, 42; John B., Granville, 42; John Louis, Fayetteville,
 43; John Louis, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Fayetteville, 50; Joseph,
 Granville, 42; Joseph, Esq., Granville, 51; Js., Newbern, 42;
 Robert, Granville, 42; Robert A., Louisburg, 46; William P.,
 Granville, 45
 Teagee, Ezekiel, Rowan, 4; Jacob, Rowan, 4; James, Rowan, 4
 Teal, James, Martin, 8
 Templeton, I. F., Newbern, 42
 Tennon, John, 53
 Thienemann, Charles, Salisbury, 46
 Thigpin, Job, Duplin, 4; Elder Job, Duplin, 13; Job, Edgecombe, 8;
 William, Edgecombe, 8
 Thomas, Asa, Casewell C.H., 42; Jonathan, Duplin, 4; Jordan, Frank-
 lin, 42, 52; Joseph, 4; Doct. Joseph, Bladen, 28; Theophilus, Esq.,
 Sheriff, Edgcomb, 51; Wilson, Edgecombe, 8
 Thomlinson, Mr. Thomas, Newbern, 32
 Thompson, James, Bertie, 13; John, Fayette [District?], 42; Elder
 John Wayne, 13; John F., 73; Nicholson, Northampton, 13; Wil-
 liam, Rowan, 4
 Thomson, William, Esq., Newbern, 32
 Thorne, Edward, 35; Samuel, Halifax, 42
 Thorp, Joel, Newbern, 42
 Threadgill, Thomas, Anson, 52
 Tignor, Isaac, Northampton, 13; W., Newbern, 42
 Tillman, H., Newbern, 42; Henry, Esq., J.P., Craven, 44
 Timberlake, Capt. W., Caswell, 4
 Tisdale, Mr. William, Newbern, 32
 Tisdall, N., Newbern, 42
 Tison, Mr. Abraham, Pitt, 48
 Tooley, Adam, Esq., J.P., Craven, 44; George, Sen., Hyde, 8
 Toomer, Ann, 6; Anthony B., Esq., Clerk of New-Hanover County
 Court, 50; J. D., Wilmington, 42; John D., 41; John D., Wilming-
 ton, 52
 Toomes, A. B., 58
 Torans, Alexander, Newbern, 42

Torrance, John, 5; Robert, 26
 Torrence, Albert, 6; Albert, Salisbury, 41, 42; Alex., Center, 41;
 George, Center, 41; Hugh, Mecklinburgh, 41
 Travers, Doct. Patrick, Robinson [Robeson], 28
 Travis, Jno., Salisbury, 46
 Treadwell, Samuel, Edenton, 42; Mr. Samuel, Edenton, 28; Samuel,
 Esq., Dep. Collector of the Port of Edenton, 51
 Trenton, Commissioners of, 49
 Trigg, William S., 35
 Trotter, I. L., Hillsboro, 42; Richard, Salisbury, 41, 42; Thomas,
 Edenton Dist., 44
 Troy, M., 26, 41; Robert, Anson, 52; Robert, Wadesborough, 42
 Tucker, R. E. G., 35
 Tuley, Ormond, Hyde, 8
 Tull, Charles, Lenoir Co., 13
 Tunstall, G., Lewisburg, 42; James, Bertie, 13; James, Warren, 42;
 Pey. R., Scotland Neck, 54; R., Bertie, 13
 Turner, David, Esq., Bertie, 51; Donaldson, Greenville, 13; Edwin,
 Halifax, 42; Mrs. Elizabeth, Bertie, 13; Harrison, Burke, 19;
 I. E., Halifax, 54; James, Bertie, 42
 Turrentine, Samuel, Hillsboro, 42

V

Vail, Abner N., Edenton, 42; Abner Nash, Edenton, 52; J. & B., New-
 bern, 42
 Valentine, Alexander, Hertford, 13
 Vallentine, William, Edenton Dist., 44
 Vance, David, Esq., Burke, 51
 Vandiford, John, Hertford, 13
 Vaughan, James, Williamsboro', 42
 Vest, Isham, 73
 Vivion, Charles, Anson, 4

W

Waddal, Thomas, Esq., 4
 Waddel, Rev. Moses, 6
 Waddell, Henry L., 1; James, 5; James G., 5
 Waddol, William, Esq., Moore, 4
 Wade, John, Northampton, 13; Joseph, Newbern, 42
 Wair, George, Bertie, 13
 Walker, Capt. Benjamin, Chatham, 28; Charles, Wilmington 42;
 James, 58; James, Wilmington, 43, 52; James, jun., Wilmington,
 43; James W., Wilmington, 42; John, Wilmington, 42; Major
 John, Wilmington, 50; N. L., 35; Reuben, Burke, 19; Thomas 5
 Wall, Elder John, Hertford, 13
 Wallace, David, jun., Newbern, 42; Levin, Beaufort, 8
 Waller, Nath., Duplin, 13

- Wallis, James, Charlotte, 22; Rev. James, Mecklinburgh, 41; John, 73; Matthew, Mecklinburgh, 41; William, Mecklinburgh, 41
- Walton, —ilman [*first letter not printed*], Burke, 19; Geo., Rutherford, 19; Timothy, Bertie, 13; Wm. O., jun., Burke, 19
- Warboton, John, Bertie, 13
- Ward, _____ [*blank*], Esq., Bertie, 51; David, Esq., Carteret, 4; David, Onslow, 4; Mrs. Ferebe, Bertie, 13; Francis, Edenton Dist., 44; John L., Warren, 42; James, Bertie, 4, 13; James, Fayetteville, 61; James R., 35; John, Martin, 8; Joshua, Bertie, 13; Luke, Edgecombe, 8; William, Bertie, 13; William W., Martin, 8
- Warr, T. C., Newbern, 42
- Warren, Abraham, Esq., Duplin, 48; James, Bertie, 13
- Washington, J., Granville, 42
- Washington, Commissioners of, 49
- Watford, William, Bertie, 13; William, jun., Bertie, 13
- Watkins, Levin, Duplin, 13
- Watson, John, Bertie, 13; John H., 35; Willis, Smithfield, 52
- Waugh, James, Wilkesborough, 38; William P., Esq., Wilkesborough, 38
- Weeks, Jabez, Carteret, 4
- Wear, Thomas, Montgomery, 4
- Weare, Major George, New-Hanover, 51
- Weatherly, Abner, Guilford, 52
- Weaver, Benjamin, Edgecombe, 8; John, Esq., Dobbs, 48
- Webb, James, Hillsboro, 42; John, Esq., Attorney at Law, Newbern, 32; Thomas, 35; Wm., 53; William E., Halifax, 42; Willis, Halifax, 8
- Weddell, Matthew, Edgecombe, 8
- Weddigen, John C., Washington, 22
- Welch, Demsey, Bertie, 13
- Wells, William, Duplin, 13
- Welsh, Joseph, Buncomb, 4; Samuel, Esq., 26
- West, George, Bertie, 13; Ignatius, Montgomery, 4; John S., Newbern, 42; Richard, Newbern, 42; Thomas, Bertie, 13
- Weston, Thomas, Hertford, 13
- Westray, Mr. Samuel, Esq., Nash, 51
- Wheatley, Thomas, Martin, 8
- Whedbec, George, Esq., Perqueman's, 37
- Wheeler, Henry, Northampton, 13; John, Dover, 54; John, Murfreesborough, 13; John, Esq., Murfreesborough, 56
- Whichard, Hardy, Pitt, 8; John, Pitt, 8
- Whisenhunt, Philip, Burke, 19
- Whitaker, Isom, Martin, 8; J., Esq., Ashville, 56; James, Esq., Buncomb, 4; Joshua, Buncomb, 4; M. C., Halifax, 42; Matthew C., Halifax, 51
- White, Benjamin, Edenton Dist., 44; George, Bertie, 13; James, Edenton Dist., 44; James, Esq., Hawkins, 51; Peter, Bertie, 13; Rob-

ert, Center, 41; Solomon, Hertford, 13; Thomas, Jr., 35; William, Esq., Burke, 51; William, Center, 41; William, Raleigh, 42
 Whitehall, Alexander L., Esq., Currituck, 51
 Whitehead, William, Halifax, 8
 Whiteside, Adam, Esq., Rutherford, 51; Moses L., Burke, 19
 Whitfield, Geo. W., 35
 Whitmell, Thomas, Halifax, 54
 Whitney, Abner, Pasquotank, 52
 Whitted, W., Hillsboro, 42
 Whitty, Edward, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44
 Whyte, L. G., 35
 Wiggins, Elisha, Edgecombe, 8
 Wilborn, James, Wilkes, 38
 Wildin, Wm., 53
 Wiley, Rufus, Newbern, 42
 Willie, James, Mecklinburgh, 41; John, Mecklinburgh, 41
 Wilkerson, Jacob, Beaufort, 8; Jacob, Washington, 8; John, Beaufort, 8
 Wilkes, James, Bertie, 13; Micajah, Bertie, 13
 Wilkins, J., Wilmington, 42
 Wilkins, John W., Edgecombe, 8; Mr. Judith, Chowan, 37; M. R., Merchant, Wilmington, 51; William, Beaufort, 8; Willis, Edgecombe, 8
 Wilkinson, Benjamin, Edgecombe, 8; Charles, Edgecombe, 8; Daniel, Beaufort, 8; Mr. William, Merchant, Wilmington, 9
 Wilkison, Aaron, Beaufort, 8; Hosea, Beaufort, 8
 Willeford, Meedy, Edgecombe, 8
 Williams, A. E., Northampton, 42; Aaron, Duplin, 13; B., Raleigh, 42; Benjamin, 64; Benjamin, Bertie, 51; Col. Benjamin, Newbern, 50; Charles, Newbern, 42; David, Edgecombe, 8; Dudley, Anson, 4; Elisha, Lewisburg, 42; Francis, Bertie, 13; H., 53; H. G., 35; H. G., Warren, 42; Isa, Edenton Dist., 44; J. J., Halifax, 42; J. J., jun., Halifax, 42; Jacob, Esq., Duplin, 49; Jesse, Bertie, 13; John, Anson, 4; John, esq., attorney at law, Chatham, 28; Hon. John, one of the judges of the Superior Court, N. C., 28, 51; John, Esq., Greenville, 9; John, Esq., Newbern, 48; Joseph, jun'r, Surry, 52; Robert, Raleigh, 42; M. D., Caswell, 52; Nathaniel, Esq., Merchant, Hertford Town, 37; Robert, 36; Mr. Robert, Newbern, 32; Robert, Raleigh, 52; S. B., Martin, 42; Samuel, Martin, 42; Samuel Esq., Martin, 51; Seth, Montgomery, 4; Solomon, Scotland-Neck, 48; Solomon B., 41; Thomas, Craven, 50; Thomas C., 35; Thomas P., Esq., Sheriff, Currituck, 51; W., Franklin, 42; William, B. C., Franklin, 52; William, Esq., Martin, 51; William, Warren, 51; William, Wilmington, 42; Willoughby, Esq., J.P., Dobbs, 44
 Williamson, Robert, Esq., 26; Thomas, 26; Thomas, Lincoln, 52
 Willis, John, Lumberton, 28; Lewis, Halifax, 42
 Wills. *See* Hodge & Wills

- Willson, Joshua, Rowan, 4
 Wilmington, Commissioners of, 49
 Wilson, Andrew, sen., 73; Andrew, jun., 73; Cha., Caswell, 63; Hugh, 73; James, Mecklinburgh, 41; Joel, Montgomery, 4; John, 35; John, Fayetteville, 28; Joseph, Randolph, 52; Rev. Lewis T., 73; Mercer D., Beaufort, 8; Reuben, Edenton Dist., 44; Robert, Caswell C.H., 42; William, Bertie, 13; Wm., Pasquotank, 52
 Wilton, Robert, Newbern, 42
 Winborne, Demsey, Northampton, 13; William, Northampton, 13; William, sen., Northampton, 13
 Windley, John, Beaufort, 8; Timothy, Hyde, 8
 Wingate, William, Wilmington, 42
 Winslow Caleb, Edenton Dist., 44; John, Fayetteville, 42
 Winstead, Elder F., Edgecomb, 13
 Winston, Joseph, 64
 Wiseman, Isaac, Rowan, 4; Josiah, Rowan, 4
 Withers, Elijah, Caswell, 4
 Witherspoon, D., Esq., Att. at Law, Newbern, 51; David, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Craven, 50; David, Esq., J.P., Jones, 44; Rev. John, Hillsborough, 39
 Withrow, John, Buncomb, 4
 Wolles, Jonathan, Beaufort, 8
 Womack, Josiah, Caswell, 4
 Wood, James, Edenton Dist., 44; Jonas, Esq., Northampton, 13; Reuben, Randolph, 52
 Woods, Benjamin, Newbern, 42, 52; Benjamin, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Newbern, 50; F., Newbern, 42; Peyton, 53; Sam., 53
 Woolard, David, Martin, 8
 Wooten, William, Edgecombe, 8
 Wooter, Capt. James, Johnston, 48
 Work, Alexander, esq., Iredell, 28
 Worley, Thomas, Bertie, 13
 Wortham, James, Granville, 42
 Wren, Samuel, Warren, 42
 Wright, Mr. Benjamin, Hertford Town, 37; J. G., Wilmington, 42; James, Northampton, 4; Joseph, Esq., Wilmington, 51; Joshua G., Wilmington, 52; Joshua Grainger, Wilmington, 43; Joshua W., Esq., Counsellor at Law, Wilmington, 50; Martin, Esq., Rockingham Co., 4; William, Rowan, 4
 Wyard, Mr. Joseph, Tyrell, 37
 Wyatt, William, Newbern, 42
 Wynne [Wynns], Thos., Member of Congress, 25
 Wynns, Benjamin, Esq., Hertford, 48; George, Bertie, 13; George, Edenton Dist., 44; James, Hertford, 13 [name appears twice]; John, Bertie, 13; Matthew, Hertford, 13; William, Edenton Dist., 44

Y

Yancey, Absolem, Granville, 45; Bartlet, Caswell C.H., 55; H., Granville, 45; Henry, Granville, 42; John, Burke, 19; John, Caswell, 52; L. Shillalagh, 45; Layton, 55

Yarborough, Edward, Salisbury, 42

Young, Alexander, Center, 41; Mr. Edward, Onslow, 49; General, Halifax, 8; Henry, Granville, 42; Henry, Wilmington, 42; James, Center, 41; James, Halifax, 8; James, Esq., Halifax, 48; John, Esq., 53; John, Fayetteville, 28; Capt. John M., 26; Strawbridge, Burke, 19

Younghusband, Thomas, Edenton Dist., 44

Z

Zaliefer, G., Halifax, 42

33-9100-34,529

